MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1981

Iran

Nabavi Press Conference--Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi's press conference on 10 March was reported by PARS on 11 March. Among other things, Nabavi accused President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr of involvement in an attempt to weaken the government and bring about its downfall. Nabavi also said the government of Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i does not intend to quit as long as it retains the support of the people, and he pointed out that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has declared that any weakening of the government is "treason." Regarding Bani-Sadr's guards, whose role came into prominence during the Tehran University disturbances last week, Nabavi said that the unit is maintained by the Defense Ministry. Nabavi also accused the Mojahedin-e Khalq and Peykar of being responsible for recent disturbances in Lahijan. Tehran radio, which has recently given extensive coverage to criticism of President Bani-Sadr, reported Nabavi's 10 March press conference without mentioning his remarks on the president. Instead, it featured his statements on strikes and the economy.

Beheshti Press Conference--Supreme Court President Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti told a press conference on 11 March that during the 5 March Tehran University meeting addressed by President Bani-Sadr, "their most important slogan was against myself." In recorded remarks broadcast by Tehran radio, Beheshti asked why Bani-Sadr did not condemn such slogans. In the future, he added, the judicial apparatus and the nation should ensure that rallies do not degenerate into riots. He accused the pro-Bani-Sadr "minigroups" of causing the violence at Tehran University by unnecessarily beating up hecklers.

Prosecutor General on Investigations--In a recorded statement broadcast by Tehran radio, Prosecutor General Musavi Ardabili indicated that the president's office has not cooperated with his investigations into the 5 March disturbances at Tehran University. He has received no response to a letter sent to the office that called for information about the president's guards and for weapons confiscated during the disturbances to be handed over. For the time being "we will not attribute this to noncooperation," he said, but added "if this kind of noncooperation comes about the judiciary will have problems."

Bani-Sadr Resignation Threat--Writing in the newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, President Bani-Sadr has threatened to resign if those who caused disturbances at his 5 March rally are not condemned by law. Reporting his threat, AFP noted that in his article Bani-Sadr said he will not accept a verdict on the Tehran University disturbances that condemns an equal number of people from both sides.

Armed Forces on Presidential Guard--An armed forces joint staff communique, broadcast by Tehran radio, revealed that after President Bani-Sadr was appointed armed forces commander in chief, the armed forces suggested that he be guarded by an organized unit. Personnel for this unit are currently being selected. The statement also indicated that up to now Bani-Sadr has been guarded by unorganized volunteers.

Majlis Session, New Ministers--After Prime Minister Raja'i presented Dr Hoseyn Nemazi as minister of economy and Hoseyn Kazempur Ardabili as minister of trade, the Majlis approved the two new appointments. Tehran radio's report on this Majlis session also noted that the bill authorizing the prime minister to personally supervise the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Economy won approval by a "decisive majority," although a number of deputies again walked out in protest. The Constitution requires that the appointment of the new ministers be approved by the president.

Trial of Former Minister--Tehran radio reported that the trial of 'Abbas Amir-Entezam, deputy prime minister in the government of Mehdi Bazargan, will begin on 17 March. The charges against him include conspiracy and contacts with the CIA.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Cabinet on War--Following a Cabinet meeting Prime Minister Raja'i told Tehran radio that his ministers are "very worried" about the situation on the fronts and devoted a major part of their session to discussing a report on the war by the defense minister. He indicated that ministers favor the arming of more "people's forces" to make up for a shortage of regular troops.

Hammadi Press Conference--According to London PRESS ASSOCIATION, Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi told a press conference in London that the chances of a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq are "not very bright." INA reported that he told journalists that Iraqi forces will not withdraw from the areas they occupy unless Iran recognizes and accepts international guarantees of Iraqi sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab, Zayn al-Qaus and Sayf Sa'd and refrains from interference in Iraqi affairs. Dr Hammadi said he was not in London to buy arms, the PRESS ASSOCIATION reported, and he confirmed that Iraq does not endorse the European initiative on the Middle East because it "cannot and will not" recognize the State of Israel.

Military Situation--A General Command Communique, carried by INA, reported that Iraqi forces conducted "night raids" in Ilam, Dezful and Ahvaz. Tehran radio broadcast a Joint Staff statement admitting that Ahvaz and Dezful had been hit by missiles but claiming that Iraqi aircraft flying over Ilam were forced to flee. Another Tehran radio report revealed "severe" fighting in the Meymak and Gilan-e Gharb regions and intensified fighting in the Nowsud area.

Pakistan

Citing official sources, Karachi radio reported that two relatives of one of the hijackers of a Pakistani airliner now in Damascus were to go there after volunteering to try to persuade the hijackers to free their hostages. AFP identified the two as the father and brother of hijacker Alam Gir and added that they went to Syria after being freed from prison in Pakistan. AFP also reported that Pakistan's ambassador to Syria, Sarfaraz Khan, returned to Damascus from Pakistan with orders to make a deal with the hijackers. According to another AFP report, Syrian officials are continuing to act as intermediaries because Pakistan refuses to deal directly with the hijackers. A Syrian source told SANA that Syria will not use military force in an attempt to rescue the hostages. The hijackers have threatened to take drastic action if their demands for the release of Pakistani political prisoners are not met by 1600 GMT on 12 March.

Egypt

According to Cairo radio, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that the multinational force to supervise Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai will not exceed 2,000 officers and men and will not be a permanent force. He added that contacts are being held to determine which states will participate in the force.

Syria-Lebanon

Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis returned to Beirut after holding 2 days of talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Beirut radio reported. A joint statement issued after the talks said that the two sides discussed all aspects of the situation in the area and in Lebanon and Lebanese-Syrian relations. They agreed on the need to take steps to improve the security situation in Lebanon and on the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 048 *12 March 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Iran Replies to Islamic Good Offices Proposal [VOP] A 1
Chatti Regrets Expiration of Mission's Deadline A 1
Gulf Information Ministers End Muscat Meeting A 1
Arab Parliamentary Union Ends Algiers Conference A 2
Abu Mayzar on Delhi Conference, European Stance A 3
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Mar]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Minister Interviewed on Gulf Council, Security C 1
[AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ 11 Mar]

KUWAIT

Sources Report Reduction in Kuwaiti Gas Prices C 4
Commentary on Cronkite Interview With Reagan C 5
[AR-RA-Y AL'AMM 8 Mar]
Paper Terms Purpose of Haig's Visit As 'Military' C 5

PDRY

Minister Leaves for YAR, Gulf To Deliver Messages C 6
PFLO Radio Reports Closure of Baghdad Office C 7
PFLO Commentary on U.S.-Oman Joint Exercises C 8
Liberation Movements Condemn Oman Maneuvers C 9
Chairman Receives PFLO Official, Soviet Envoy C 9
PDRY Starts Color TV; To Boost Other Transmissions C 10
Briefs: Ambassador To Syria C 10

EGYPT

'Ali Cites As-Sadat on Haig Visit, Sinai Force D 1
AL-AHRAM Comments on U.S. Mideast Policy Aims D 2
AS-SAFIR Says U.S. Seeks Use of Base on Cyprus D 2
As-Sadat Receives Message on U.S.-British Talks D 2
Cairo Radio Comments on Superpower Relations D 3
ROSE AL-YUSUF Says Soviets Needed in Peace Process D 4
[9 Mar]
Ghali Speaks on African Security, Egyptian Policy D 7
Arab Industrialization Supreme Committee Meets D 7
Writer Views Conflict Between Press, Government D 8
[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 28 Feb]
Briefs: Senegal Justice Minister; DPRK Foreign Trade Minister; D 9
Official Appointment; Population Statistics

IRAQ

Hammadi Holds Press Conference in London, Departs E 1
Report on Departure [cross-reference] E 1
Moscow Reports Comments by Communist Party's 'Aziz E 1
[cross-reference]
Ramadan Meets With Niger President's Envoy E 2
Armed Forces General Command Communique 272 E 2
Baghdad Hails Iranian Uprising in Lahijan E 3
Baghdad Comments on Social Conditions in Iran E 4

JORDAN

UN Delegate Views Possibility of Mideast Solution F 1
[Kuwait AL-WATAN 17 Mar]
Ambassador to USSR Arrives Home, Makes Statement F 2
King Receives Letter From Lebanese President F 2
Continuing U.S. Aid to Israel Criticized F 3
Briefs: Chilean Cooperation Accord F 3

LEBANON

Syrian-Lebanese Talks End; Sarkis Returns 11 Mar G 1
Arrival Report G 1
Sarkis Statement G 1
Joint Statement Broadcast G 1
Cabinet Meeting Scheduled G 2
VOL Commentary G 2
Official Meets With UN Security Council Chairman G 2

SYRIA

Hijackers Threaten To Kill American Passengers H 1
Al-Asad Answers Questions After Sarkis' Departure H 1
Unity Committee Ends Meetings in Damascus H 3
Libyan Foreign Secretary Arrives in Damascus H 3
Jordanian Ba'thists Praise Al-Asad Remarks H 3
Ba'th Party Official Receives Moro Front Official H 4
New TV Station Opened in As-Suwayda' 10 Mar H 4

ISRAEL

Israel To Seek $350 Million in Extra U.S. Aid I 1
[DAVAR 11 Mar]
Shamir Speaks on Sinai Force, Saudi Arms Deal I 1
Burg Says Talks May Require Reassessment I 1
Begin Says Terrorists Aided by Soviet Union I 2
Dayan Confers With As-Sadat; Elections Discussed I 2
[MA'ARIV 11 Mar]

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Holds Talks With President of Benin Q 1
Briefs: Agreement With Seychelles Party Q 1

LIBYA

U.S. Fleet Maneuvers Said To Reflect 'Anxiety' Q 1
U.S. Reportedly Gives 'Spy Aircraft' to Morocco Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Stresses Opposition to All Terrorism Q 1
Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ends Visit 11 Mar Q 2
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Nicaraguans; Documents Signed Q 2

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Interviewed by Italian News Agency Q 2
Mauritanian's Remarks Said To Renounce Neutrality Q 3
LE MONDE Views Moroccon Side of Saharan Conflict Q 3
Tour of Positions [Paris 5 Mar] Q 3
Hassan: Dispute 'Closed' [Paris 5 Mar] Q 5

EAST AFRICA

DJIBOUTI

Visiting Somali Foreign Minister Holds Talks R 1

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Hosts Dinner for Sierra Leonean President R 1

SOMALIA

WSLF Leader Appeals for Aid for Somali Refugees R 1

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MDI Leader Calls for Withdrawal of French Troops S 1

ZAIRE

Resumption of Rail Traffic With Angola Reported S 1

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

Kenyan President Arrives for 4-Day Visit T 1
Shagari, Moi Remarks T 1
Lagos Views 'Anti-Nigerian Campaign' in Ghana T 1
Newspaper Disturbed by French Bases Near Chad T 2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

President Speaks at Close of Assembly Session U 1
People's Assembly Approves Amnesty Resolution U 3

IRAN REPLIES TO ISLAMIC GOOD OFFICES PROPOSALS

JN120618 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received the official Iranian response from President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr to the proposals of the Islamic good offices committee to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Immediately upon receiving the response Brother Abu 'Ammar contacted Habib Chatti, Islamic Conference secretary general, in Jidda and informed him of the content of the Iranian response; in the light of which they discussed the necessary measures to complete the tasks of the committee involving the two fraternal countries.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also sent the Iranian response to Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Toure in his capacity as chairman of the committee.

CHATTI REGRETS EXPIRATION OF MISSION'S DEADLINE

LD121052 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1010 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Jidda, 12 Mar (SPA)--Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, has stated that due to the conditions which have been submitted by both the Iraqi and the Iranian Governments for consideration in the search to resolve the dispute between them, it has become impossible to meet the deadline which was fixed by the Islamic good offices committee and which is due to expire tonight.

Mr Chatti expressed the committee's regret that it is not possible to achieve a cease-fire by the set date and that the war will continue with all the bloodshed and destruction which it caused.

In a statement to SPA he stressed the committee's determination to persist in its efforts with both sides until the goal which was fixed for it by the Islamic third summit, namely to halt the fighting and find a peaceful solution to the differences between these two Muslim countries, is achieved. He added that the committee has noted with satisfaction the two sides' sincere desire to end this tragedy, and that both sides (?welcome) the committee's efforts, which will enable the committee to make new contacts and to continue its efforts with both sides for the realization of peace.

GULF INFORMATION MINISTERS END MUSCAT MEETING

GF120449 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The Gulf information ministers conference concluded this evening in Muscat, Oman. The ministers adopted the following resolutions and recommendations: [Recording of resolutions is read by the head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the Gulf information ministers conference.]

1. The conference has reviewed the report presented by the conference's General Secretariat on what has been implemented by the fifth Gulf information ministers conference. While thanking the General Secretariat for its efforts during the past year, the conference stresses the necessity of implementing the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the fifth conference.

2. Information activities in the international arena: The conference has decided to form a committee, to be called the Committee of International Information Relations, to be based in Qatar and headed by Qatari Information Under Secretary Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khulayfi. The committee is commissioned the task of preparing publicity plans and projects to explain Arab views on various issues and to support Arab questions in the international arena.

4. From Arabs to Americans society: The conference was briefed on the contents of the memorandum presented by the Qatari Information Ministry on the formation of the above-mentioned society in Ash-Shariqah. The conference urges member countries to support and encourage this society.

11. Coordination in the field of information and press: The conference has reviewed the memorandum presented by the UAE on this issue and has decided to commission Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani the task of coordinating with the press and news media in member countries as well as with Arab and foreign papers. The conference has also decided to commission Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad the task of coordinating with the press agencies of Gulf Arab states and contacting foreign press agencies to urge them to observe accuracy and objectivity within the framework of confronting opposing negative stands.

19. The seventh Gulf information ministers conference: The conference has accepted with gratitude and appreciation the invitation by the State of Kuwait to hold the seventh conference of the Gulf information ministers in Kuwait in February 1982.

ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION ENDS ALGIERS CONFERENCE

LD120014 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Rabih Bitat, member of the Political Bureau, speaker of the National People's Assembly and chairman of the second conference of the Arab Interparliamentary Union, tonight announced the adjournment of the final session of the second Arab parliamentary conference by declaring the session's approval of the resolutions and recommendations of the three committees formed by the conference. This was done after the conference agreed to an amendment proposed by Kamil al-As'ad, leader of the Lebanese parliamentary union, to a clause referring to Arab denunciation of Zionist aggression. He preferred deleting this in favor of an invitation to Arabs to draw up a plan which ensures the frustration of the Zionist plot. The participants passed this amendment.

The final statement said that the participants praised the idea of holding a conference once every 2 years. The conference adopted resolutions to strengthen the march of the Arab Interparliamentary Union, to bolster links with Arab parliaments and to formulate plans and carefully consider programs by which to continue the Arab-European dialogue. This dialogue is to be pursued (?on the basis) of the plan drawn up by the conference which defines its aims and stages.

The conference adopted the necessary steps to coordinate Arab stands in all international parliamentary forums. The participants considered this conference a turning point in the union's march in step with the popular will, in response to Arab parliamentarians in contemporary Arab issues, in defending Arab soil, in entrenching democratic values and concepts in the Arab homeland and in protecting the basic liberties of the Arabs and their right to a dignified life.

Arab parliamentarians have undertaken to continue to support the PLO and strenthen its independence and freedom of decision and action. They affirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people with the responsibility of tackling the future of that people. They strongly denounced the continuation of the Zionist actions against southern Lebanon. They demanded that deterrent measures be taken and that legal authority in Lebanon be consolidated. They also discussed with concern the Iran-Iraq war and called for efforts to bring it to an end.

In the economic sphere they studied the projects which the Arab summit conferences had approved. They affirmed the need to put these projects in motion and to give priority to the major ones in order to strengthen the ties of Arab economic interaction and realize economic integration.

ABU MAYZAR ON DELHI CONFERENCE, EUROPEAN STANCE

LD111645 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Mar 81 p 3

[Shafiq al-Asadi interview with PLO official spokesman and member of PLO delegation to New Delhi Nonaligned Conference 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar in Abu Dhabi on his return from New Delhi--exact date not given]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau--[Question] What did the Palestinian cause achieve at the Nonaligned Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi?

[Answer] For the first time and on behalf of the largest international group and movement, the conference produced a strong reply to U.S. President Reagan's statements about the PLO and his policy on the Middle East and the Palestine cause. The conference deplored the American policy because of its hostile attitude to the PLO, its denial of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian and Arab territories and its attempts to impose policies and stands on the area's states that are contradictory to the real interests of the area's peoples.

The conference also gave a clear answer to all the initiatives and options which the United States and some European circles have been talking about while ignoring the Palestinian option. The conference emphasized that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that no individual or state whatever has the right to represent the Palestinian people or to negotiate about Palestinian territory, people, rights or cause and that any such measure will be regarded as null and void.

The conference thus rejected categorically and firmly the Jordanian option and autonomy proposals and the diverse resettlement plans, and emphasized its condemnation of the Camp David agreements and their results and effects. [answer ends]

Abu Mayzar added that the conference called for the first time on the European Community states to recognize the PLO and the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The conference also took a new practical step when it called on the United Nations and its specialized agencies not to accept the credentials of the Israeli delegation, because it represents a government that has violated international law and annexed Jerusalem and declared it its capital. The conference called on the nonaligned states to show all kinds of political, military and propaganda solidarity with PLO. It also underscored the right of the PLO and the Arab states to confront all solutions and settlements carried out at the expense of the Palestinian and Arab rights. The conference also denounced all the Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and emphasized that peace in the Middle East can be achieved only after complete and unconditional withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem.

The conference asserted for the first time that Security Council Resolution 242 does not constitute a basis for a just solution to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem. This was a culmination of the efforts which the PLO had initiated at the Arab and Islamic levels and which were consecrated at the Amman summit and the Islamic summit in At-Ta'if. The nonaligned states conference underlined this stance on the Security Council resolution, which we categorically rejected on the grounds that it does not constitute a suitable basis for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in which the Palestinian issue constitutes the crux of the issue.

The European Initiative

[Question] Given that we are talking about one of the most important international conferences and the political activities with regard to the Palestinian issue, what is your stance on the European role and the European initiative, about which there is much talk at present?

[Answer] The Arab public in general and the Palestinian public in particular must be aware of the big and basic difference between political struggle and political solution. We in the PLO are struggling on all fronts and in the various fields. We seek to rally the largest section of international public opinion in order to gain further recognition of our rights and of the PLO and to expose the enemy's practices inside and outside the occupied territories.

The European arena is one of the arenas in which we are struggling. However, we cannot say that Europe has so far presented anything tangible or effective. Politically, it would be inaccurate to say that a European initiative exists, because the European stands are still at variance and have not yet crystallized into a specific initiative. There is no doubt that Europe feels the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East. Certain regional developments make Europe even more aware of the seriousness of leaving the Middle East crisis unresolved. While being aware of all this and eager to take advantage of it, we would like to say, however, that Europe is still under the American nuclear defense umbrella and that it is difficult, indeed impossible for a dependent Europe to have a foreign policy that is independent of the United States. Undoubtedly, discord does sometimes occur between Europe and the United States, but this discord does not reach the point of contradiction.

If we want the European and other situations to develop, we Arabs must first develop our struggle, second develop our position, and third direct our energies and capabilities in the right direction. The world does not side with justice and freedom but with strugglers for freedom and justice.

Therefore, we Arabs must take the initiative on the level of our struggle against the enemy, not confuse friends and foes, and be precisely aware of the interests that influence the states and make them move toward us in a positive manner.

Very regretfully I say that the Arabs are giving much more than they are taking. In their international relations, particularly with Japan, Western Europe and the United States, the Arabs are the losing party in economic and political dealings.

BAHRAIN

MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON GULF COUNCIL, SECURITY

GI...1255 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 11 Mar 81 p 5

[Interview granted by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah to the Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ and published in conjunction with 'UKAZ on the same day--date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Question: How do you view the future of the Gulf, and what effect will the recent decision to set up a Gulf Cooperation Council have on the future of cooperation in the region?

Answer: We have been working toward the Gulf Cooperation Council for a long time. The recent Riyadh meeting was a turning point for the region. It is a jump from the stage of aspiration to the stage of action.

In short, we have embarked on a long path toward increased cooperation and cohesion among the Gulf countries in all fields. We hope this will be achieved in the best manner possible.

Question: Certain political and media circles believe that the council was formed for reasons other than strengthening cooperation. What is your view? Was the council formed to contain Gulf differences that--according to some rancorous persons--had begun to surface?

Answer: The recent coordination among Gulf countries provides a true example for constructive cooperation in any region. The council has drawn up a framework for Gulf leaders to meet and make decisions that serve the region's interests.

I can confirm that there were no differences or rifts among the Gulf countries. The contrary is true--as demonstrated by the cooperation that existed. By forming the council, we sought to speed up Gulf cooperation and raise it to the highest level possible in the shortest amount of time.

Question: What are the possibilities of other countries joining the council and what are the conditions for doing so?

Answer: First, I do not think there are any conditions for joining the Gulf Cooperation Council. I also believe it is premature to talk about any other state or group of states joining this founding group of the council. The firm and real bases for required cooperation have not been established yet. We are still in the early stages. This does not mean the door is closed. All we are saying is that first this group should prove its success and achieve its original objectives. We cannot talk about a stage while we are still at the beginning.

Question: Some quarters and countries have interpreted the council's formation as the formation of a new axis in the region. How do you view such interpretations?

Answer: We in the Gulf countries have never supported the creation of axes. Indeed, the Gulf countries have reconciled views on the Arab, Islamic and international levels. Our philosophy is to resolve differences among brothers and not to set up axes. Therefore, I do not think it is possible for us to form an axis as some people have said. The formation of the council does not contravene the charters of any organizations to which we belong: the Arab League, the United Nations or the Islamic Conference Organization. Regional cooperation is necessary because it makes things easier for all our neighbors. It creates strength and not weakness.

I want to stress that the council is not an axis or a bloc, because we do not believe in the formation of axes. Gulf cooperation is in the interest of the entire region, all Arab brothers, and our friends in the Islamic world, the Third World and elsewhere. It seeks to serve the interests of the area. It is not directed against anyone. This should be clear to everyone.

Question: The big powers have put forward views and proposals for Gulf security. How do you view such proposals? What is your reply to those who say the United States was behind the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council?

Answer: I want to make it clear that what takes place in this region stems from our aspirations and hopes. The stability, prosperity and strength that prevent foreign countries from interfering in our affairs confirm that what we have done is not new but the fulfillment of aspirations that have existed for many years.

I also want to say that any grouping of this kind does not serve the intersts of the big powers; they do not like to see the formation of such groupings. We all know that such groupings protect weak countries. The formation of this Gulf grouping serves the interests of the area and the interests of the world in general, and not the intersts of a big power that seeks to infiltrate various regions of the world.

As for the United States, I want to stress that this matter does not concern the United States; the Soviet Union or any other big power. In short, we thank anyone who supports this grouping. We stress to anyone who does not support it that what we are doing is not directed against anyone but is intended to serve our own intersts.

As for the big powers I believe they should accept the situation in the Gulf and recognize that there are countries in the region that have decided to cooperate with each other. They must decide whether or not they want to accept it. We are going ahead along our path.

Question: The Riyadh declaration did not specify whether the cooperation includes military and political aspects. Why?

Answer: The Gulf Cooperation Council did not neglect anything. We have said and we stress that the spheres of cooperation are open. We are prepared to cooperate in all spheres and on the widest scale.

Question: Both the United States and the Soviet Union have expressed their views on Gulf security. How do you view the attempts by the superpowers to interfere in the area and the effect of such attempts on the Gulf's future?

Answer: At present, and until the council adopts a collective decision, I can speak only for Bahrain and not for the council. I hope there will be a joint collective policy on this matter. In Bahrain, our policy on this issue is clear and frank. We do not want the Gulf to be an arena for international conflict and tension. We also believe that the absence of the two superpowers in the Gulf serves the region's interests and contributes toward keeping the area free of any confrontation between them. We are opposed to any possible confrontation between the superpowers.

Question: What is the best way to keep the area away from international conflicts?

Answer: I believe the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council is the answer to this question. With a council for Gulf cooperation, the influence of such a grouping is great. The council can adopt a collective policy for confronting any foreign intervention in the area. It also enables the Gulf countries to deal with and cooperate with the major powers from a position of strength. This was part of our calculations when the Gulf Cooperation Council was formed; namely that the council, as a grouping, can keep the region free from any threats.

Question: To what extent has the Iraq-Iran war affected the region's future and stability, and what is your view on the possibility that the war may expand?

Answer: The current war in the Gulf between the Iraqi brothers and the Muslim brothers in Iran is sad and unfortunate. We are doing everything we can to end this war. We are seeking to end the war through the efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization, because this war does not serve the region's interests. I do not believe the war will expand. I believe there is a chance it can be de-escalated, and this is what we are trying to do. There are new signs indicating this.

We in Bahrain are doing all that we can to end differences, because we believe that the exacerbation of differences in the region is not in our interest. These differences among brothers should be ended in a manner that satisfies all parties.

Question: How does Bahrain view the presence of military bases in the area? What in your view is the effect of such bases on the region's future?

Answer: The region has a clear policy in this regard: It does not believe in military bases. Following the departure of British bases from the region, we are not prepared to offer any bases. Therefore, the countries of the region should cooperate and increase such cooperation to fill any vacuum that may arise.

I reaffirm, we are opposed to any foreign bases. We shall do all that we can to defend the people of the area and ourselves. This is the only way to defend the region. Thus, we have found that collective cooperation is the only way to oppose foreign interference and is the answer to all attempts to harm the area.

Question: Despite warnings about the danger of exacerbating differences among the Arab countries, the situation between Syria and Jordan has recently deteriorated. There are also other Arab differences. How can these differences be contained and reduced?

Answer: We in Bahrain are trying--along with our brothers in Saudi Arabia in particular--to resolve these differences. Saudi Arabia has played an important role in resolving these differences, both in the Arab Maghreb and in the Arab east.

Question: How do you view the attitude of the new U.S. administration, particularly the recent statements on continuing the Camp David process?

Answer: The new U.S. administration must place U.S. interests before Israeli interests. When this happens I believe the U.S. Government will be able to cooperate [better with the parties in the Middle East conflict] and to achieve a solution to the Middle East question. However, if the new U.S. administration wants to pursue the same policies as the previous administration and be influenced by those who are exerting pressures in Israel's favor regardless of the interests of the United States and the peoples of the area, then I believe the United States will lose a great deal and will not be able to play a useful role in the region. On the contrary, the Middle East will become an area of tension, as in the past, while we want it to be an area of peace and understanding. However, I must stress that effective action is Arab action. Once the Arab world unites we can then ask other states to change their stands. However, if the Arab stand remains weak we cannot expect any administration in the United States or any other country to support us.

Our stand on the Camp David process is clear: We consider it to be a separate solution between Egypt and Israel, and it does not achieve a comprehensive peace in the region. Therefore, we hope the United Nations will offer an alternative to Camp David through its resolutions. There can be no separate solution. It must be a comprehensive solution. If the Reagan administration wants to continue the Camp David policy we shall look for something else.

Question: Some quarters say that following the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan the next threats will be made in the direction of the Gulf. What is your view?

Answer: The fact is that the Soviet aggression against Afghanistan is a very serious event. Our stand is clear and unequivocal, whether in the Islamic Conference, other conferences, or the United Nations. I believe the Soviet Union should withdraw from Afghanistan and let the Muslim Afghan people exercise their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state. We are doing all that we can to bring this about. This region should unite in order to face any existing or possible threats. Before we ask others what are they doing, we should ask ourselves what we can do. We must face such threats. The region's defense against the ambitions of others is our responsibility. We cannot crush such threats, but we can repulse them.

Question: We may not have the courage to ask you about relations between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. What is your comment on the progress of these relations?

Answer: Bahraini-Saudi relations are historic and were founded many generations ago. We are now following the path that was charted by our fathers and forefathers. We share issues of history, destiny, civilization and many other issues. I believe that relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are ideal because they are founded on mutual understanding and cooperation. They are based on solid foundations that cannot be affected by events. Cooperation between us is firm and strong. Bahrain always appreciates Saudi support and cooperation in all fields. I believe the bridge project that will link Bahrain to Saudi Arabia is an extension of the historic bridges between the two countries. I hope that the ideal relations that exist between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia will exist between all other Arab countries.

KUWAIT

SOURCES REPORT REDUCTION IN KUWAIT GAS PRICES

LD111324 Kuwait KUNA in English 1145 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Mar (KUNA)--Authoritative oil sources said here Wednesday that Kuwait has again reduced the prices of its liquefied gas by about 1.35 per cent on retroactive basis as of the first of this month.

The sources told KUNA that the average price of a single metric ton of gas was reduced by about 4.25 dollars making it 308.85 dollars.

The sources added that the price of the butane gas became 305 dollars per metric ton instead of 307 dollars per ton and the price of the propane became 312 instead of 318 dollars per ton.

This is the fourth decrease in gas prices since last July when the price was 319.8 dollars per metric ton. The latest decrease was last September.

The sources added that this decrease was adopted in line with reduction of gas prices in the gas-producing Gulf states.

The sources said that Kuwait could maintain the level of its gas sales despite the fact that the prices were not changed for six consecutive months and the gas prices in the neighbouring countries were reduced.

COMMENTARY ON CRONKITE INTERVIEW WITH REAGAN

LD111419 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 8 Mar 81 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Two Questions: One American and One Arab"]

[Excerpts] Two days ago CBS television's Walter Cronkite, a leading American journalist and commentator, had a television interview with President Ronald Reagan. One of the questions which Cronkite put to President Reagan was: "What is the difference, from a philosophical standpoint, between our going to help a democratic government survive in the face of action by armed groups with foreign aid--Soviet or Cuban--which we believe is happening [in El Salvador] and so does your administration, and what is happening in Afghanistan? El Salvador is within our sphere of political influence and Afghanistan, which is on the Soviet borders, is of course within the Soviet sphere of influence. The Soviets have entered that country with their forces in order to back a friendly Marxist government. Surely the situation is similar?"

That was the text of Cronkite's question to the U.S. President. Of course, Reagan's answer was that there is no comparison between the two situations. Those people, that is the Soviets, have installed a [pro-Soviet] government in Kabul, while the Americans are supporting a government "whose people want it to administer their affairs."

We did not expect the U.S. President to answer otherwise. But the question put by Cronkite, who is certainly not a communist, contains the right and real answer. The United States allows itself to do what it prohibits others from doing. It wants everybody else to be loyal and subservient to it, otherwise they are "terrorists and Soviet agents."

But if we try, in theory of course, to change locations on the map, that is if we put the United States in place of the Soviet Union and the latter in place of the United States, we would find U.S. intervention taking place in Afghanistan and Soviet Intervention taking place in El Salvador. What we are concerned with here is the U.S. lying about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and also the attempts to distract us from our basic and immediate interests so that we become tools in the U.S. war against the so-called Soviet threat.

Incidentally, we are not here defending the Soviet Union. We in fact reject Marxism on religious, national and human grounds. But as Arab citizens, day after day and generation after generation, we have seen the United States and the West strike blows against us and suppress our aspirations for national sovereignty and the liberation of our usurped land in Palestine. We can no longer stand the sight of this West which has never sided with us.

The question now, in addition to that put by Cronkite, is: For how long will we continue to be bitten twice? We fought against Nazism when we knew nothing about it and now they want us to fight the Soviet Union simply because it gives us arms and enables some of us to stop the Israeli invasion of the rest of the east.

PAPER TERMS PURPOSE OF HAIG'S VISIT AS 'MILITARY'

LD111330 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 11 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Mar (KUNA)--AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Haig's coming visit to the area:

"Many observers affirm that the coming visit of the U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig to the region next month has a more military than political nature. As he is the former commander of the NATO forces and the actual state secretary, he can carry out both his military and political duties and be more convincing than the Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger.

"The observers also affirm that Haig is not coming to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict but to discuss the confrontation of what is called the Soviet danger to the Gulf and the Middle East.

"By stressing this point, the U.S. means to say it does not want to waste its time dealing with the subject that is of concern to the Arabs, which is the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, because this subject in the U.S. point of view is of secondary importance and contradicts U.S. plans to confront the Soviet Union.

"The Soviet danger is something invented by the U.S. after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in order to be the mask that frightens the area and to create the pretexts for those who cooperate with Washignton in the region to intensify their cooperation.

"Haig is coming to reap this fear of the Soviets."

PDRY

MINISTER LEAVES FOR YAR, GULF TO DELIVER MESSAGES

LD101550 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Mar 81 EA

[Summary] 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister of state for cabinet affairs, left Aden this morning for a brief visit to the YAR, during which he will deliver a message from Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to President 'Ali Abdallah Salih.

After his visit to San'a' 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali will tour a number of Gulf and peninsula states, beginning with Kuwait.

"Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali made a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY in which he explained that he is carrying letters from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the heads, kings and amirs of the states in the region connected with the current developments in the region which is being subjected today to a ferocious imperialist-Zionist onslaught aimed at exacerbating the situation as a prelude to intervention in the affairs of its states and peoples.

"He pointed out that the onslaught comes in implementation of designs aimed at spreading imperialist domination over the entire Arab region. The liquidation of the Palestinian cause and the plundering of the resources of our Arab peoples. He said that this requires exchanging views with leaders of these states to confront these designs whose manifestations began to appear clearly in the joint military exercises between the U.S. and Omani forces. He explained that the PDRY desires security and stability in the region and for this reason it took the initiative of proposing the convening of an urgent summit meeting for the states in the region, that is the Gulf, the peninsula and the Horn of Africa, for the purpose of removing U.S. bases from the region.

"Concluding his statement he expressed his hope that Democratic Yemen's call will receive a favorable response from the brother leaders of the states in the region in the interest of their states and peoples.

"During his tour Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali will discuss bilateral relations with leaders of the region and methods of developing them further."

PFLO RADIO REPORTS CLOSURE OF BAGHDAD OFFICE

LD112124 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] An official spokesman of the PFLO has made a press statement on the Iraqi Government's closure of the front's office in Baghdad. The PFLO representative left Baghdad together with the individuals working in the office, as well as all the sick persons who were receiving treatment there, after being informed by the pan-Arab command of the Ba'th Party in Iraq to leave the country, and the severance of the relationship with the PFLO on the pretext of the front's nonadoption of a stand supporting Iraq in its war with Iran.

The statement says: The PFLO deplores this stand adopted by the pan-Arab command of the Ba'th Party in Iraq because such a stand toward the Omani revolution completely contradicts the pan-Arab interest and the progressive pan-Arab struggle. It also contradicts the interest of the national liberation struggle in Oman, the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula in that this area and its nationalist and progressive forces are at present exposed to dangerous reactionary imperialist conspiracies which aim at imposing colonialist influence and hegemony and liquidating all the nationalist forces hostile to imperialism, Zionism and reaction in the area. Also, the regime in Oman is moving in a direction that is hostile to the struggle of the Arab nation through its support for all the treasonous steps of the agent regime of As-Sadat and the As-Sadat-Zionist-American Camp David accords.

This is in addition to the Qabus agent regime's commission of national treason against the Omani homeland in that it has opened Oman's territories to American forces and bases and exposed the Gulf area and the Arabian Peninsula to perils of direct military occupation. Hence, Oman has now become a marshaling center and a springboard for American forces and a source for threatening security and stability in the entire area because the American, British and French fleets are being deployed in the waters and ports of Oman and the Arabian Gulf and the Qabus regime is welcoming more American forces and bases and allowing Oman's territories to be a theater for Egyptian-American military maneuvers. It cannot be denied that joint Egyptian-Israeli-American maneuvers are being held in Oman because there are numerous indications of such coordination.

This is one point. The other is the existence of the Oman revolution led by the PFLO which has been leading the struggle of the Omani people for 16 years in order to achieve the true independence of Oman and to expel the foreign military forces and bases from Oman so that Oman may contribute positively toward the progressive pan-Arab struggle.

Arising from the new developments taking place in the Oman, Gulf and Arabian Peninsula areas, we consider the stand of the Ba'th Party in Iraq to be in contradiction to the national and pan-Arab interest which the Ba'th Party in Iraq calls for. We assure the masses of our Omani people and the masses of the Arab nation and all the Arab and world progressive forces that this stand has not come about because of the front's stand toward the Iranian-Iraqi war but that it is a result of other reasons that are no secret to anybody.

Among the most prominent of these reasons is the difference between the views of the two sides about some Arab and world issues.

At a time when we deplore the adoption of such a stand by the Ba'th Party in Iraq, especially in this dangerous situation through which the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula area is passing, in particular our Omani land, where the conflict is intensifying between the Omani people, led by the PFLO on the one hand, and the imperialists and their agent Qabus on the other, we would like to record for history our appreciation and our deep thanks to the brotherly Iraqi people and their nationalist and progressive forces for all the backing and support they have offered to the Omani revolution. The strugglers of our front and our struggling Omani people will not forget what the brotherly Iraqi people offered to the valiant Omani revolution.

[No reports from Baghdad media on the closure of the PFLO Baghdad office and severance of relations with the PFLO have been monitored.]

PFLO COMMENTARY ON U.S., OMAN JOINT EXERCISES

LD111420 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Mar 81 EA

[Station commentary: "Military Exercises of Qabus and the United States, and NATO Pretexts in the Gulf"]

[Text] Brothers, Professor (Robert Carter) of [name indistinct] University in the United States has written an article on the objectives of the U.S. force in which he said that the road to Europe passes through the Gulf alone. He expressed his agreement with Brzezinski and Vance that the dangers to the Gulf are a result of an existing vacuum in the area, a vital area in the world. Whatever regional organizations the Gulf states set up to ensure their security these would not be able to carry this burden. The United States alone was capable of filling the alleged vacuum in the Gulf.

The same idea was expressed in another way by Anwar as-Sadat, the U.S. puppet in the Arab region, when he said that military facilities given to the United States throughout Egypt have the aim of defending any Arab state in the Gulf and that the Gulf states must admit that they cannot defend themselves without the support of the United States.

The new U.S. administration now demands a permanent presence in the form of fixed bases in the Gulf region and not mobile bases in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. While the foreign ministers of the Gulf states declare that the security of the Gulf is the concern of the Gulf states themselves, free of influence from or involvement with foreign powers, we find the puppet Muscat regime surprising Arab public opinion with joint U.S.-Omani military exercises conducted on Omani territory.

These exercises revealed that the Cooperation Council was above all a Security Council taking cover behind cooperation in economic, educational, health and information fields and so on. In fact, this cooperation has existed for years in the form of ministerial councils for information, education, health, labor and social affairs. Despite the extent of the surprise shown by some states in the region at the joint military exercises, the facts dispel this surprise. Therefore, the Qabus-U.S. joint military exercises took place with the knowledge of all and this confirms the link binding Gulf security directly to NATO.

This was not concealed by the puppet Qais Zawawi, the sultanate's foreign minister, when he insisted on the necessity of U.S. participation in maintaining Gulf Security by military means. He declared that the exercises were for the purpose of creating a balance in the region. The balance he intended and which he revealed openly was this: If the Soviets are in Kabul, Aden, and India, as he claimed, then why should the Americans not have a presence nearby?

The statements made by Zawawi expose the depth of the links between the so-called sponsors of cooperation and NATO under whose command the Rapid Deployment Force has been placed. The statements also expose the relations between the Rapid Deployment Force present in Egypt and the Egyptian forces present in the sultanate's territory. All these forces are under U.S. hegemony and get their orders directly from the NATO command.

Now the American-Egyptian-Gulf military alliance can encircle the region after ensuring rapid movement from the bases (?in the area), beginning with the base at Ras Banas and ending with U.S. bases in the Sultanate of Oman.

Just as the U.S.-Egyptian military exercises were training for rapid movement to any place in the Gulf from Egypt, the Qabus-U.S. military exercises assumed the nature of exercises in telecommunications, which would ensure speedy contacts between the Gulf states and NATO. Indeed, they would ensure against any interference that might occur when the allied forces move, as was said by the sources of the puppet Muscat regime. The exercises, they claimed, were for the protection of the Strait of Hormuz.

Even if U.S. movements are concealed behind the pretext of Soviet influence in the region, the United States is aware that the most dangerous threats to U.S. interests in the Gulf come in the form of internal movements which continually threaten the regimes falling over one another and cause sleepless nights for the agents, furthermore by threatening the oil resources on which the United States depends and on which it will depend, as it declared, for the next 10 years at least. [sentence as heard]

After the fall of the shah, the American policeman in the region, there must be a new policeman--it is Qabus.

LIBERATION MOVEMENTS CONDEMN OMAN MANEUVERS

LD111642 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Arab national liberation movements and progressive parties accredited to Aden have strongly condemned the American maneuvers in Oman on the border of Democratic Yemen and the provocative acts accompanying them.

In a statement they issued today in Aden, they express their deep solidarity with the people of Democratic Yemen and their vanguard, the YSP. They call on all the generous forces in the world for effective solidarity with the people of Democratic Yemen. They also express confidence that the continuation of the correct course of the YSP is the way to confront the forces of aggression and foil their criminal designs.

The statement renews the support of the Arab liberation movements and progressive parties for the peaceful initiative declared by Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the initiative declared by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, concerning the holding of a summit conference of states of the area for eliminating foreign bases from it. The statement calls on all the nationalist and progressive forces in the area to support the initiative.

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES PFLO OFFICIAL, SOVIET ENVOY

LD111558 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Summary] Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today held meetings with 'Abbas Zaki, director of the PLO office in Aden, and Muhammad Sabri, representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Aden.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also received in his office this morning Brother 'Abd al-Hafiz Juman, member of the PFLO Executive Committee and official responsible for foreign relations. Militant relations between the Yemeni and Omani revolutions were discussed during the meeting. The brother secretary general reaffirmed Democratic Yemen's support for the revolution of the Omani people against the Qabus agent regime and for establishment of a regime that is free and independent of the subordination of the imperialists and their aggressive designs. He also stressed Democratic Yemen's continued policy which aims at the holding of a summit conference of states of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf and the other parties concerned in order to clear the area of imperialist military bases and make it a zone of peace, stability and cooperation.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, also received in his office today Comrade Feliks Fedotov, the Soviet Union's ambassador in Aden. Relations of cooperation and friendship existing between Democratic Yemen and the Soviet Union and the means for their future development in the interest of the two friendly peoples were discussed during the meeting

PDRY STARTS COLOR TV; TO BOOST OTHER TRANSMISSIONS

LD091318 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Color TV transmission begins today in the PDRY. The project will be declared open at 1630 [1330 GMT] today at an official ceremony to be transmitted live. The TV will also transmit live today the proceedings of the final session of the Yemeni women's extraordinary general congress. This will be its first coverage of an outside event in color.

Meanwhile work is continuing to strengthen TV transmissions in other parts of the republic. Work has been completed on the concrete bases at Jabal Jihaf in the province of Dali in the Governorate of Lahej. Work is also continuing in the Al-Mukayras area in the Governorate of Abyan. After the completion of the project to strengthen transmissions TV will reach all the areas in the Governorates of Lahej and Abyan and the neighboring areas in the northern part of the homeland, as well as the Governorate of Shabwah.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA--Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad today received Abduh 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman, who is about to leave for Damascus as PDRY ambassador. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Mar 81 LD/EA]

'ALI CITES AS-SADAT ON HAIG VISIT, SINAI FORCE

NC111601 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has requested that the talks to be held by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Cairo should focus on interest in support of Egypt in carrying out its duty of defending the Arab states and on strengthening its defense capabilities. He said that Egypt is prepared to provide facilities, not bases, for the United States to facilitate its task of going to the rescue of any Arab state should this become necessary. Egypt, he also said, should explain the importance of settling the Palestine problem as being a strategic objective necessary for establishing peace and containing the Soviet tide in the region.

The above was stated by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, who said that during his meeting with President as-Sadat he submitted to the president a report regarding the current negotiations on the deployment of a multinational force to supervise the Israeli withdrawal to Egypt's international borders in accordance with the peace treaty and on the demands related to the formation and positioning of this force.

President as-Sadat emphasized that the principles governing this force should be in harmony with the peace treaty and that the size of the force should be adequate to enable it to carry out its inspection duties or to be present in the areas of Sharm ash-Shaykh and Rafah and patrol the length of the Gulf of 'Aqabah and the Egyptian-Palestinain borders under the mandate.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that this force will not exceed 2,000 officers and men at the most and that it will not be permanent. As far as the states to participate in this force, he added, Egypt and the United States are holding contacts with a number of states, and the matter will also be raised during the talks to be held by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister with the northwest European states.

'Ali added that the force will be under the umbrella of the treaty. He said he hopes the force will be formed before the final Israeli withdrawal from Egyptian territory.

The second topic discussed with President as-Sadat, 'Ali said, was related to the attitudes of the nonaligned states during the New Delhi conference, revealing that the states that are still their own masters had a louder voice and were more effective than the states on the Soviet wagon.

Answering a question about Egypt's position on the Soviet call for an international conference on the Middle East, he said that had it not been for the Soviet attitude in Afghanistan--a real invasion against the will of the Afghan people--Egypt would have sent its ambassador to the Soviet Union. He added that the Soviet Union has an ambassador in Egypt and that Egypt has a charge d'affaires in Moscow and so contact was possible on all that concerns bilateral relations and the international situation.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed Egypt's willingness to go to any international conference if Moscow is serious and if such a move would produce positive results for the Middle East.

'Ali said that President as-Sadat gave him personal messages for the kings and presidents of northwestern European states which he will visit next week.

Concluding, he said that President as-Sadat instructed intensification of contacts with the African states and the Nile littoral states in particular. Economic relations, he said, are one of the foundations on which Egypt relies and which it encourages in its relations with the African states to promote Egyptian-African cooperation in all fields. The current Khartoum conference of the Nile states, he said, in which the Egyptian irrigation minister is participating, shows the extent of Egypt's interest in coordination with the Nile states to use every drop of Nile water in the interests of these states.

AL-AHRAM COMMENTS ON U.S. MIDEAST POLICY AIMS

NC120912 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 12 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Middle East and the Peace Strategy," in its editorial today AL-AHRAM refers to U.S. Secretary of State General Haig's statement that the stability of the Middle East demands the speeding up of the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper points out that Alexander Haig made this statement before the visit he is scheduled to make to the area in another 2 weeks and after his government announced increased military aid to a number of Middle Eastern states to face the possibilities of foreign intervention and to maintain security and stability in them.

AL-AHRAM adds: Perhaps General Haig's choice of the Middle East for his first extensive political tour--and he is a man who combines diplomacy and military strategy--shows the extent of U.S. interest in the stability of the area, obliging the United States to end the causes of possible turmoil in the area. The main cause of possible turmoil in the area is undoubtedly the continued existence of wrong conditions and pending issues.

The most significant hot issues that have been and still are the source of danger and threat are the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and Arab Jerusalem and Israel's refusal to recognize the full rights of the Palestinian people.

There is no doubt that before looking for foreign threats and facing the future possibilities it is necessary to find a settlement and to end the present conditions that can be exploited to deepen polarization, impose the policy of axes and reject all chances of peace.

Irrespective of how much and how important U.S. military aid to the area may be and irrespective of how aware the countries in the area may be of the danger of foreign threats, the faith of these countries in peace and stability and the rejection of foreign intervention demands that they ask our (?mutual) friend, and the state which has the basic interest in stability, to remove, with the cooperation of the countries of the area, all the causes of anxiety and tension, rule out all attempts at polarization and concentrate on the issues of security, peace and joint fruitful cooperation among them.

AS-SAFIR SAYS U.S. SEEKS USE OF BASES ON CYPRUS

NC111456 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Beirut, 1 Mar (MENA)--Citing informed British sources, the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR reports today that the U.S. administration has asked the British Government to allow U.S. forces to use facilities in the British bases in Cyprus and Gibraltar. Quoting its correspondent in London, the newspaper adds that a similar U.S. request was made to Turkey to give it similar facilities in the Turkish-controlled part of Cyprus.

The newspaper says that experts believe that such bases--the so-called middleway facilities [tashilat muntasaf at-tariq]--are vital for the United States to strengthen its presence in the Middle East and the Gulf.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGE ON U.S.-BRITISH TALKS

NC112135 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] MENA has learned that British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington has sent a message to President Anwar as-Sadat through ordinary diplomatic channels.

According to British Foreign Office sources, the message deals with last month's talks held in Washington, during the visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, with President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State Haig and a number of other senior officials.

MENA has also learned that during his recent visit to Cairo Lord Carrington had agreed with President as-Sadat to hold steady contacts on developments in general.

MENA has learned that in his message Lord Carrington briefed President as-Sadat on what happened during the Washington talks and on developments since Carrington's visit to Cairo last January, in addition to recent visits by British Foreign Office officials to the Middle East and talks held by some Middle Eastern officials in London.

CAIRO RADIO COMMENTS ON SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

NC111502 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 81

['Abd al-"Azim Hammad commentary: "The World Between a Return to Cold War or Detente"]

[Text] It can be said that the world is now witnessing a ceaseless race between two ways of conducting East-West relations. This will inevitably affect all international issues. The first way is one of negotiations which, it is hoped, could put the world back on the course of international detente. The second way is that of firmly confronting the attempts by any superpower to expand, impose influence and stir troubles.

Before dwelling on this race in detail, it is necessary to examine the factors which destroyed the policy of detente in recent years. Detente, as applied near the end of the administration of President Nixon and the administration of President Ford, and also that of President Carter, convinced the U.S. foreign policymakers that detente was serving one side in the international game--the Soviet Union. During the period in question the Soviets did indeed make significant international gains through military presence in Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, the PDRY, Cambodia, Libya and Afghanistan. Today, the El Salvador problem is heating up as a result of the influx of Soviet arms to the opposition there via Cuba.

Against this background, the policymakers in the new U.S. administration of Ronald Reagan have concluded that they must first stand up to this Soviet policy which they describe as imperialist policy. The U.S. Government has unequivocally announced that it supports the Government of El Salvador--to the point of possibly blockading Cuba to stop the flow of arms from Cuba to the opposition in that Central American state.

In the Middle East the Americans are seriously considering setting up a U.S. Rapid Deployment Force to protect the oilfields in the Gulf against any threat from the Soviets or their friends. It has recently been reported that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has agreed in principle to British participation in the Rapid Deployment Force. This force may even be totally formed within the framework of NATO.

The day before yesterday the U.S. secretary of defense said openly for the first time that in order to guarantee the security of the Gulf it was necessary to have U.S. bases near the oilfields, preferably in Saudi Arabia, if the Saudis agree. U.S. officials also confirmed that their government intends to increase military aid for many friendly states in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It is certain that the Soviet Union sees danger in this new U.S. policy because the continuation of confrontation in this manner could plunge the world into a cold war again. The Soviets, however, know that the Americans may not object--in fact do not object--to a revival of detente on their own terms. This is why Soviet President Brezhnev recently called for a summit meeting between himself and the U.S. President.

He also sent secret messages to the leaders of Western Europe to persuade them to urge the U.S. President to agree to a U.S.-Soviet summit conference.

It is being said in diplomatic circles that FRG Foreign Minister Genscher's recent visit to Washington was for the purpose of urging the Americans to negotiate with the Soviets. Here, the Soviet side is exploiting European security's sensitivity to any tension in international relations because of Europe's proximity.

The U.S. does not reject the principle of negotiations but appears to favor negotiating from a position of strength and on condition the negotiations cover all international issues, ranging from strategic armament to Soviet infiltration of various parts of the world. This U.S. condition revives the concept of linkage in the negotiations, in that no international problem can be settled in isolation from other problems, and that a final settlement of international problems should come as a comprehensive deal.

This concept, however, may not appeal to the Soviets at the present time because it may impose a dishonorable settlement on them in their opinion, for certain issues such as Afghanistan, or because they may not be able to make compensatory gains in other areas such as the oil-rich Gulf area. Right now, the Soviets perhaps favor the principle of limited pacification, not overall detente.

Still, in the past, in 1972 to be specific, the Soviets agreed to the principle of a comprehensive deal. So the original question remains: Will the world return to detente or go to cold war?

ROSE AL-YUSUF SAYS SOVIETS NEEDED IN PEACE PROCESS

LD111235 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 9 Mar 81 pp 14-15

['Abd as-Sattar at-Tawilah article: "No, the Soviet Union's Participation in a Comprehensive Settlement Is Indeed Important"]

[Text] In AL-AHRAM for 27 February my colleague Ibrahim Nafi', AL-AHRAM'S chief editor, wrote an article commenting on Comrade Brezhnev's recent proposals on the Middle East, saying that the Arab-Israeli conflict can be settled without the Soviet Union.

This tune has often been repeated in the past, but the strange thing is that it is being repeated these days, when events have proven the importance of the Soviet Union's involvement and participation in reaching a comprehensive settlement of the conflict, leading to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied after 1967 and to the realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate demand to determine their own fate in a homeland, whether it be independent or voluntarily united with another country.

The Americans and the Europeans are aware of this fact. Although the Americans do not welcome the involvement of the Soviet Union, the realities of the age are stronger than desires. The statements made by former U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Herman Eilts on this subject may indicate an awareness of this fact. ROSE AL-YUSUF published these statements some weeks ago.

Why is the Soviet participation in reaching a comprehensive settlement necessary? The reasons are very simple and clear:

1. Some of the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and indeed the most important parties, aside from Egypt--namely the PLO and Syria--have strong relationships with the Soviet Union. They believe that a Soviet role at the negotiating table with the United States and Israel is very important.

King Husayn himself has no objection to using the "Soviet card" to obtain as much as possible at the negotiating table.

2. These parties are supported by other Arab countries which have various degrees of friendly relations with the Soviet Union, such as Libya, Iraq, Algeria and South Yemen. These countries are convinced that the Soviet "card" in the negotiations is important. Even states like Kuwait, Sudan and South Yemen hold the same view.

3. The Soviet Union is really present in the Middle East and Africa. Presence, friendships and alliances generate interests and obligations which cannot be disregarded in the settlement of an issue in the heart of an area in which wars have constantly erupted.

4. Even in the Gulf area, the Soviets now have an influential voice, by virtue of their occupation of Afghanistan and their relations with Iran and Iraq, the two warring states, which prompted them to present for the first time a proposal for the establishment of peace in the Arab Gulf area, instead of the military presence of either superpower.

5. By virtue of its enthusiasm to see stability prevail in the Middle East area, so as to ensure the widest possible commerce and economic cooperation and because of its tangled and extensive relations with the Soviet Union, Western Europe is also inclined to have the Soviet Union participate in the comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

6. The Soviet Union is the only superpower which has stated and continues to state always its approval of Arab national demands, irrespective of contradictions between it and any Arab party. Indeed, the Soviet Union is closer to Egyptian reality than some of the rejectionist states.

Brezhnev clearly recognizes Israel's right to exist. He says: "It is necessary to ensure the safety and sovereignty of all the area's states, including Israel."

The Soviets do not advocate demagogic slogans such as war and the "Vietnamization" of the situation in the area, as some political adolescents are doing, but they concur with Egypt's realistic policy and call for a solution by peaceful means.

7. The parties which the Soviet Union is urging to meet around the negotiating table are the same parties which Egypt had earlier called on to do this--the Arab parties (Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO), Israel, the United States, the Soviet Union and, recently, the states of Western Europe, which is the new element in Brezhnev's proposal. Indeed, he is calling on the whole world to follow, watch and bless these negotiations via the United Nations.

8. Any comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict requires guarantees from the big powers, not to prevent the various parties from violating the peace agreement but to ensure that none of the parties to the agreement are set against any of the big powers through the creation of tension. We also need such a guarantee to ensure that the issue is not subjected to international bargaining.

Those are the reasons in favor of the Soviet Union's participation in any comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.

Since the Egyptian political leadership has cautiously welcomed Brezhnev's proposal no one should pour oil on the fire. It is definitely in the interest of Egypt and the Arabs to put the Soviet proposal into effect, along with any amendment they deem appropriate.

Peace is very important in this area, as well as in the Arab Gulf, to silence forever those who are calling for the military facilities given to any international power to be turned into permanent bases--something which was completely rejected by Vice President Husni Mubarak during his talks in Washington last December.

The question now is whether a contradiction exists between the Soviet proposal and the Camp David accords.

First of all, we would like to remind the reader and the Soviet side that Egypt always urged convening the Geneva conference. President as-Sadat even took advantage of the international reaction to his November 1977 initiative to call for a conference to be convened in Cairo preparatory to the Geneva conference, but the Soviet, PLO and other Arab sides refused to attend.

Another thing is that Egypt presented the Camp David agreements as a framework for a comprehensive solution to the problem, not as the solution itself. This framework encompassed the following points:

--The agreed withdrawal from Sinai is considered an example that can be followed with regard to all the occupied Arab territories.

--A transitional period in achieving the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people during which the Palestinians would exercise autonomy--an autonomy that would give them identity or entity.

--The establishment of a lasting peace and normal relations between the Arabs and Israel.

All these principles were subject to negotiations. In other words, they did not decide the issue completely. The Egyptian-Israeli negotiations succeeded, a peace treaty was concluded between the two countries and withdrawal from Sinai began. The autonomy talks have stumbled but Egypt has made no concessions at all. The rest of the Arab parties refused to attend the negotiations and the Israelis continue to occupy the Golan Heights, the West Bank and Gaza.

Any international conference must discuss these issues. Bargaining would most likely lead to an agreement on various "transitional periods." We do not believe that the Soviet Union would reject, for example, a transitional period for Palestinian autonomy. Thanks to the combined Arab presence and the Soviet and European presence it could be frankly stipulated that such autonomy was preparatory to the attainment by the Palestinian people of the right of self-determination and so on and so forth.

The Camp David framework has brought about withdrawal from Sinai and peace between 42 million Arabs and Israel. This is part of a comprehensive settlement.

According to the Baghdad and Tunis conference resolutions not a single Arab state calls for war with Israel in order to settle the dispute. The Soviet Union also rejects the use of war and, as I have already pointed out, calls for negotiations--that is, a peaceful solution.

It is not true that Egypt has concluded a separate reconciliation [sulh]. Otherwise, it would not have continued the autonomy talks, then suspended them, then turned toward Western Europe and later cautiously welcomed the Soviet proposal in addition to maintaining its contacts with the United States. Egypt has done all this because it realizes that, despite the withdrawal from Sinai, peace will remain threatened as long as Israel continues to occupy other Arab territory.

So Egypt is continuing the peace efforts in order to put an end to all this, since the negotiations process has yielded actual results.

For this reason, we must enlist any power that can contribute to attaining this objective, irrespective of any past or present disagreements.

GHALI SPEAKS ON AFRICAN SECURITY, EGYPTIAN POLICY

NC111417 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has said that the Arab Republic of Egypt is working to strengthen relations with the fraternal African states and confront the dangers threatening the African Continent, particularly foreign interference in the continent's affairs. He said that this stand is consistent with Egypt's firm policy and that any threat to the security of the African states is a threat to Egypt's security.

In a statement delivered today at a joint meeting of the Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committees of the Consultative Council, his excellency said that the Arab Republic of Egypt is contacting the African states with a view to adopting a definite stand on Libya's interference in Chad and explaining the effects of this interference on the security and stability of the African states. He said that if the efforts currently being made to put an end to Libya's adventures on the African Continent do not result in resolving the problem then this matter will be submitted to the African summit conference scheduled to be held in Kenya next month.

His excellency commended the coordination between the Egyptian and Sudanese delegations during the African foreign ministers ministerial council meetings in Addis Ababa. He said that both delegations explained their country's points of view by denouncing the Libyan invasion and stressing the need to resist the Libyan Government's adventures. They also dealt with the results of the African foreign ministers conference, particularly in relation to strengthening the Namibian people's struggle and making the Indian Ocean an area of peace. He said that Egypt has prepared a plan for holding contacts with the African states to prepare for the forthcoming African summit conference. He said that the Egyptian minister for agriculture will visit Zimbabwe to discuss Egyptian aid to Zimbabwe in the sphere of agriculture. He said that Egypt will also participate in the summit conference to be held in Madagascar and the foreign ministers conference to be held in Colombo for discussions on making the Indian Ocean area an area of peace.

Ghali affirmed that in conformity with Egypt's policy of achieving peace in the Middle East area it also works to achieve peace in Africa and the entire world.

Committee Chairman Sayyid Nawfal delivered an address on international developments, Egypt's stand on these developments and the importance of working to achieve peace in the Middle East and solving international problems.

After the meeting the minister of state for foreign affairs answered questions by [committee] members on Egypt's stance in all international questions.

ARAB INDUSTRIALIZATION SUPREME COMMITTEE MEETS

NC111800 Cairo MENA in English 1655 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)--The Supreme Committee of the Arab Industrialization Organization held a meeting today under Vice-President Husni Mubarak. The meeting which is considered the first of its kind this year, was attended by Deputy Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Deputy Premier for Financial and Economic Affairs Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid, Minister of Defence and Military Production Lt General 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Chief of Staff Lt General 'Abed Rab an-Nabi Hafiz, and Board Chairman of the Organization Dr Ahmad Zandu who is also secretary general of the Supreme Committee.

Following the meeting that lasted for four hours, Zandu said that the committee has considered the new projects that will serve interests and needs of the armed forces in the different fields foremost among which is the field of aviation either in the field of producing fighter-planes, bombers, or helicopters.

The Supreme Council also discussed the issue pertaining to the production of guided missiles in the light of the types currently being produced by the organization with the aim of manufacturing new types for the service of the armed forces. Among these missiles are the anti-tanks missiles and the anti-aircraft missles, Zandu said.

The Supreme Committee has also considered the issue of manufacturing armoured vehicles to save needs of the armed forces of this type of arms in the light of modern development. The organization's factories are currently working for developing armoured vehicles "Walid," which are being made in Egypt and will be given to the armed forces to be tested after being developed in preparation for being manufactured here. Zandu added that discussions have also covered the needs of the armed forces of lorries and other types of vehicles and added that the committee has also approved the manufacture of some kinds of bombs needed by the armed forces.

The meeting of the Supreme Committee has further dealt with the budget of the organization and the closing entries for the years 1977 till 1979 and approved as well the budget of the organization for January 1980 and approved also and laid down the basis for the marketing operations of the organization.

WRITER VIEWS CONFLICT BETWEEN PRESS, GOVERNMENT

LD111627 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Feb 81 p 8

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "Crisis of Confidence"]

[Excerpts] Whenever the talk turns to the press and the government all of us agree that there is a crisis of confidence between the journalists and the government.

Some journalists accuse the government of trying to rob them of their freedom, ignoring their rights, hitting their interests, muffling their voices, breaking their pens and casting doubts on their attitude.

Some officials have no confidence in some journalists. Accusations have often been leveled against writers and the press. This is a crisis of confidence of the first order.

It is not in the interests of anyone that this crisis should continue. A way must be found to start a dialogue between the government and the journalists--a dialogue in which each side will say what it has to say to the other side--a dialogue on an equal footing without pressure or intimidation from either side against the other.

In my opinion, the Journalists Association is best qualified to conduct such a dialogue since it has the sole right to speak in the name of the journalists because the board of this association has been freely elected, which therefore gives it every power to restart the dialogue which has been broken off for many years. The association board's task will not be difficult. The dialogue with the government does not go beyond the following points:

--The broad base of the journalists does not want the crisis of confidence between the regime and the journalists to continue. This base has many lost professional and trade union rights.

--The press cannot survive without freedom. It cannot breathe if trusteeship is imposed on it. The Egyptian press cannot prosper as long as attempts are made to restrict its movement by laying down strange clauses in the draft law that are rejected by everybody.

--Egypt is the only Arab state which allows the existence of opposition and the publication of papers which say "no." In my view, this is the greatest and biggest achievement of the 15 May 1971 revolution.

Any attempt to fetter the freedom of the press or to insist on maintaining the draft press law as it is now is tantamount to new restrictions fettering the press and provides an opportunity to the Arab information media, which have nothing to do other than abusing Egypt and slandering the Egyptians, to attack the democratic atmosphere which only the Egyptian Arab people are enjoying.

Therefore, the draft law must be reconsidered. Since the Consultative Council has already approved the provisional press draft law, the next press higher board must have the last say on this. I believe that the primary task of every member of this board is to support the amendment or cancelation of the provisions of this draft law.

BRIEFS

SENEGAL JUSTICE MINISTER--Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA)--The Senegalese minister of state for justice left here today for Paris on route home following a four-day visit to Cairo. The Senegalese official was seen off at the airport by his Egyptian counterpart Counsellor Anwar Abu Sahli. The Senegalese minister met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali with whom he discussed means of promoting cooperation in all fields, the African issues and the situation in the Middle East. The Senegalese minister affirmed his country's support for the Egyptian peace efforts and the determination of the two countries to resist plots being hatched against the African peoples and attempts of foreign intervention. [Text] [Cairo MENA in English 1832 GMT 10 Mar 81 NC]

DPRK FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER--Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)--The DPRK foreign trade minister, Choe Chong-kun, arrived in Cairo on a 1-week visit during which an agreement for commercial cooperation will be signed between Egypt and the DPRK. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1944 GMT 11 Mar 81 NC]

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT--A republican decree has been issued appointing Maj Gen Dr Awad Mukhtar Haludah as head of the Senegal Mobilization and Census Department to succeed the late Lt Gen Jamal 'Askar. Major General Halludah was previously head of the Military Research Board. [Cairo AL-AHRAM Arabic 15 Feb 81 p 8 LD]

POPULATION STATISTICS--Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA)--The Central Agency for General Mobilization and Statistics has stated that the population of Egypt reached 43 million on 14 January 1981, an increase of 1 million compared with the last population report on 1 April 1980. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 11 Mar 81 NC]

HAMMADI HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON, DEPARTS

JN112018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] London, 11 Mar (INA)--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has stressed that Iraq is waging a just and honorable war against the Iranian regime for the sake of restoring its national and pan-Arab rights, that were usurped by force. In a press conference here today, he said that the war was imposed on Iraq after it had exhausted all peaceful means to make Iran's rulers recognize its legitimate rights.

Asked about the extent of the war's impact on public life in Iraq, he said that the war had deepened the Iraqi people's awareness, raised their morale and entrenched their faith in the justice of the pan-Arab issues. Consequently, he said, it had not at all affected the citizens' daily life. On Iraq's losses in the war, Dr Hammadi said: Our losses are too small to be mentioned in comparison with the losses sustained by the Persian enemy. He added that the figures mentioned in our communiques are correct and precise.

Dr Hammadi said that Iraq is not at all ready to cede any of its usurped rights. He stressed: The Iraqi forces will not withdraw from the areas where they are now stationed unless the Tehran rulers recognize our sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab, Zayn al-Qabus and Sayf Sa'd, abstain from direct or indirect intervention in our internal affairs and provide that this recognition be internationally guaranteed. Dr Hammadi explained that the Iraqi forces are able at any time to march further into the Iranian territories and control new towns. However, he said, Iraq does not want to humiliate Iran and is still giving its rulers several chances for peace. He stressed that the Iraqi political leadership would issue its orders to the valiant armed forces to impose peace on the Tehran rulers if they continue their intransigence, should all efforts fail to solve the conflict peacefully.

The foreign minister stressed the Arabism of the three Arab islands occupied by Iran and said that Iraq supports the restoration of these islands to the UAE.

Speaking about the European initiative on the Arab-Zionist struggle, he said that Iraq has its own viewpoint regarding the Palestinian cause and that it will never recognize the Zionist enemy.

Speaking about the outcome of his contacts with British officials, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said that the two sides had reviewed bilateral relations from several angles and that they believe good possibilities to expand these relations are present.

Report on Departure

For a London report on Foreign Minister Hammadi's departure from Great Britain, including statements in which he rejects U.S. plans for a Rapid Deployment Force and the European initiative on the Middle East, see the United Kingdom section of the 12 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

MOSCOW REPORTS COMMENTS BY COMMUNIST PARTY'S 'AZIZ

For a statement by Muhammad 'Aziz, first secretary of the Iraqi Communist Party and leader of its delegation to the 26th CPSU Congress, broadcast by Moscow's Arabic-language service, in which he criticizes the Iraqi regime, see page P 27 of the 26th CPSU Congress section of the 2 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

For the greetings message published by PRAVDA--and carried by Moscow's Arabic service--on the occasion of the 26th CPSU Congress, in which Muhammad 'Aziz condemns the Iraqi regime's "destructive military adventure against Iran," see P 3 of the 26th CPSU Congress section of the 10 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

RAMADAN MEETS WITH NIGER PRESIDENT'S ENVOY

JN101209 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Oumarou Amadou, Niger's ambassador in Saudi Arabia and the personal envoy of Niger's president. The talks during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and the means to develop these relations in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The envoy arrived in Baghdad the day before yesterday with a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Niger's President, Seyni Kountche.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 272

JN111649 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA)--The valiant Iraqi forces killed 89 of the racist Persian enemy during the battles waged in the various operations sectors yesterday evening and today. Communique No 272 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening added that our forces destroyed three enemy tanks, one armored personnel carrier, eight vehicles, three field guns, one excavator and one observation post. It said that our forces pounded enemy targets in Ilam, Dezful and Ahvaz during night raids yesterday. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 272 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued their activities in the operations sectors. The following are the results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Four were killed and three infantry positions, one vehicle, one excavator and one observation post were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Six were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Gilan-e Sharb region.
C. Two were killed and one infantry position and one vehicle carrying troops were destroyed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Ten were killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Mehran region.
E. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Dezful region. Our forces opened fire and forced the enemy to flee, leaving behind 34 dead.
F. One was killed in the Shush region.
G. One armored personnel carrier and one vehicle were destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region.
H. One was killed and one vehicle and one field gun were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Our units opened fire on enemy concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing 31 and destroying 3 tanks, 2 vehicles and 2 field guns.
J. Our valiant forces carried out night raids and pounded targets in Ilam, Dezful and Ahvaz.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 89 dead, 4 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 1 armored personnel carrier, 8 vehicles, 3 field guns, 1 excavator and 1 observation post.

II. Our losses

A. In personnel: 11 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Four vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 March 1981

BAGHDAD HAILS IRANIAN UPRISING IN LAHIJAN

NC111256 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Oh risen heroes of Lahijan, may your uprising be victorious. Once again in the same thick forest, in the same beautiful fields, the memory of Siahkal is revived. Arise so that Iran can rise with you.

Reports have been received that in the Gilan region and in the Mazandaran area an insurrection has started and that (?various groups of) Iranian strugglers are thinking about joining you so that your voice can be the messenger of the executioner's death.

The northern and Lahijan areas remind us of people who very bravely stood up against oppression, and today again the same news is being received from the same region. The ruling clerical dictatorship is shaking with fear because of you and is trembling. Extend your arms to each other and form a chain of unity to overthrow the palace of oppression. Do not be fooled by the turbaned men. Their threats are bluffs like those we have repeatedly heard from dictators. Finally one day an end should be put to this calamity. On any day and any hour that this movement starts you will be a part of it.

No Iranian can stay indifferent to the situation in his country. Anticipation is meaningless. Revolting against the bloodsuckers is a national and religious duty. Throw the plunderers out of your country. In order to crush the bloodthirsty ruling circle, consider the principle that the rebellion should start from every direction--from the Kavir region, from Torkamansahra, from Ahvaz and risen Kordestan, from Tabriz and Gilaks, and finally from Tehran and the Tehranis. Thus, the demon of dictatorship will be crushed sooner and Iran will be saved from calamity sooner.

While Iran is burning in the flames of the wrath of ignoramuses like Khomeyni, while Iran is threatened by a civil war, the fraudulent ruling party and their preachers here and there are trying to disseminate lies once again, to talk nonsense once again to push the Iranian people once again toward destruction, to fool the poor villagers once again and send them to the fronts so that they will be the ones to drink the wine of martyrdom and so that the pockets of their holinesses--the clergy--will be filled with more money. The disgrace of this group has surpassed its limits.

They speak of industries and factories. They speak about social welfare. They broadcast faked reports, but the alert Iranian people can read between the lines very easily. The nonexistence of doctors and medicine, foodstuffs and so on speak of economic bankruptcy. Under such circumstances, when chaos rules everywhere and even the clergy are biting at each others' backs to gain positions, the ruling group has banned any type of sit-in or demonstration.

Yes, dear listeners, on the day when the epic of Siahkal was created the big network of SAVAK tried to destroy it and the best children of the Iranian people were sacrificed for this insurrection. These insurrections were the beginning of Iran's revolution, which was robbed by the famous gangster (?Mostafa 'Ali) Hendizadeh, alias Ruhollah [Khomeyni]. Today, how can Khomeyni's flimsy government, which cannot silence the clergy of the clerical Majlis, nip the idea of insurrection in the bud as they claim they will? Did they not try to do the same in Kordestan when after 2 years they realized that they could never chain people who have risen?

The sit-ins should start; the marches should begin; the demonstrations should reach their climax so that the wretched demon of dictatorship will be crushed. The death of the executioner is near. Freedom is near, and you will be the ones to present it to Iran and to the Iranian people.

BAGHDAD COMMENTS ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN IRAN

NC111257 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Station commentary: "A Glimpse at Iran's Internal Situation"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, Muslim brothers and sisters, alert and [word indistinct] Iranians: At this moment the most marked activity in Iran is that of the counter-revolutionaries, who rely on the rule--the (?usurpers) of Tehran, who are the puppets of world imperialism--who are directly or indirectly supporting it.

Another noticeable activity is by the Iranian patriots and revolutionaries who are struggling toward Iran's salvation, for revolution and freedom. They have not stopped their opposition but have intensified their struggles and attacks against the regime.

Yet another activity in Iran is by the puppets of other world policies, who want to take the rule out of Khomeyni's hands and themselves become the dictators in Iran. In this sphere of antipopular movements the Tudeh Party of course, is so disgraced that it is not even worth mentioning.

In continuing this glimpse of Iran, it should be mentioned that out of the 36 million Iranians, today 3 million are refugees, 5 million have been afflicted by the war, 7 million are unemployed and 3 million were compelled to leave Iran. In addition, 1 million Iranian students are in difficulty--those in Iran are facing closure of their universities, and those abroad are not receiving stipends.

In total, 16 million out of the 36 million Iranians have lost their direction in life and are struggling against the floods created by the anti-Iranian regime without a single log of wood to hold on to for rescue. Nor are the remaining 20 million Iranians living in favorable conditions, especially when the regime--using the state of war as a pretext and by continuing it--is trying to hide its weak points.

Dear listeners, in this brief study of events, it should of course be noted that we have said nothing about the atmosphere of censors, (?the oppression) of the people and other (?human acts) the reactionary and colonial regime.

At any rate you the Iranians, you people who have been deprived of [words indistinct] (?and caught in the chains) of dictatorship, should think about what we have said and conclude whether what we have said is correct, whether or not destruction has surpassed its limits, and what should be done.

UN DELEGATE VIEWS POSSIBILITY OF MIDEAST SOLUTION

LD121049 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 7 Mar 81 p 11

['Amid ash-Shanti report on interview with head of Jordanian UN delegation Dr Hazim Nusaybah in New York--date not given]

[Excerpts] Dr Hazim Nusaybah, head of the Jordanian UN delegation and a Palestinian, announced that "very shortly" there will be a solution for the Middle East problem. The solution, which is sponsored by the major powers, does not achieve all the Arab aspirations. In a statement to AL-WATAN, he said that the Arab countries must refuse residence to any Palestinian coming from the West Bank or any of the occupied territories so that Arab presence there will remain substantial. The Arabs, he added, must allocate $1 billion to support our people in the occupied homeland.

He said: Over the 5 years during which I have had the honor of serving as Jordan's UN delegate the Arab countries have achieved great gains in the world community. It would be no exaggeration to say that Israel has become "ostracized" at the United Nations and is condemned by every quarter. Only one country, the United States, now sides with it.

Gaining international support is a great achievement when compared with the state of total ignorance and the distortions that prevailed in the international arena regarding the Palestinian people's rights and the Arab situation in general. But I would like to ask, as every Arab citizen from the Gulf to the [Atlantic] Ocean would ask: Have all these diplomatic successes achieved any Arab or Palestinian gains in repossessing their land? Has Israel ever stopped its feverish grabbing of what is left of the holy lands or ceased trampling upon the Palestinian people's rights?

The answer to this, as everybody knows, is negative. The Israeli settlement in Jerusalem and in the West Bank and Gaza, according to the committee on the Palestinian people's rights, has covered more than 35 percent of the said territories. They are frantically proceeding with settlement, particularly Begin's government which seems to be racing against time to lay hands on the largest possible area that can be grabbed before the June elections and to abort any international initiative, like the European initiative, to find a solution to the Middle East problem.

He added: We realize that 70 percent of the occupied territories is public land, that is, under common ownership. But Israel considers this land as state land, that is, land belonging to it. Which means that it can put its hands on most of the Palestinian lands.

He said: The last ammunition left for us there is manpower, in that there are about 2 million Palestinians there. I would like to emphasize as strongly as I can that the only way to regain Palestine as I see it now, in the light of the military imbalance and U.S. support for Israel, is large-scale Arab and international support for our people and compatriots in occupied Palestine so that they will not be forced to emigrate from the country under the pressure of Israeli tyranny and economic deprivation.

He added: Jordan does not now allow the departure of our people from the occupied territories except on family or private visits with a pledge to return. Although I sympathize with the sufferings of my people, the national interest comes first. The Arab countries must not allow the people of the occupied territories to emigrate to them except in exceptional cases. It might be said here that I am placing the burden of the battle on our people's shoulders. But I would couple this proposal with another proposal--namely that all the Arab countries allocate no less than $1 billion to support our people and enable them to build various projects and factories so that by the end of this century they will be more numerous than the Jews. We must admit here that the Arab oil countries own vast wealth that can sway the world's policy planners if such resources are properly used.

Dr Nusaybah added: Our large-scale, increasing, and vital dealings with the world countries today are done on purely economic basis. Why should we not, therefore, receive a sufficient political price as the Zionists do with their own financial power, bearing in mind that the central pivot of world politics in essence is the economy and the prosperity which every state tries to achieve for its people. I would like to take the United States as an example. Why should not the Arab countries, for example, allocate at least $50 million to bring about a change in U.S. public opinion through the media and through helping friends in order to oppose those who support the Zionist injustice.

He added: There is a virtually total absence of Arabs in the U.S. arena and the gains we achieve at the United Nations are not reported in the press and thus do not reach the American citizens who form the great majority. The American people are neutral and unaware of the Arab viewpoint.

Concluding he said: I do not preclude the possibility of reaching a solution for the Middle East problem worked out by the major powers, but it will not be a just and natural solution for the problem. Nusaybah declined to disclose the nature of the solution but said that it will come soon, very soon.

AMBASSADOR TO USSR ARRIVES HOME, MAKES STATEMENT

JN111517 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Amman, 11 Mar (PETRA)--Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, Jordanian ambassador to the Soviet Union, has arrived in Amman on an official mission. He announced that Soviet officials are always expressing their eagerness to develop the existing relations of friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union as well as their appreciation of Jordan's stands on the Middle East issue and Jordan's firm viewpoint that solving this issue in a manner that achieves a lasting and just peace in our region must be mainly based on terminating Israeli occupation of the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's national legitimate rights with the participation of all parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli struggle, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

The Jordanian officials' statements and reaction to President Brezhnev's proposals, which were submitted in his report to the recent 26th [CPSU] Congress, were received with great appreciation and interest by Soviet officials. They were also highlighted by all the Soviet information media.

The Soviet officials are always stressing the Soviet leaders' desire to have a continuous dialogue with His Majesty King Husayn. They also stress the importance of exchanging viewpoints with his majesty. Within this framework the Soviet leadership addressed an official invitation to his majesty the king to visit Moscow. His majesty has accepted the invitation, which will take place on the fixed date.

KING RECEIVES LETTER FROM LEBANESE PRESIDENT

JN102142 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a latter from His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis. The Lebanese ambassador in Amman delivered the letter to his majesty this evening.

In his letter President Sarkis said: We are closely following the incident of the attack against the Jordanian Embassy in Beirut and the kidnapping of the Jordanian Charge d'Affaires Hisham al-Muhaysin. We strongly condemn this odious crime and we fully regret that it has taken place in Lebanon, which has pure fraternal relations with Jordan. President Ilyas Sarkis stressed that the Lebanese authorities are devoting the attention that this incident requires and that he personally is following up all the steps that are being taken in this matter.

President Sarkis added that Lebanon will do its best to return Al-Muhaysin to his country and family safe and sound. President Sarkis also conveyed to his majesty feelings of appreciation and respect and wished his majesty good health and success.

CONTINUING U.S. AID TO ISRAEL CRITICIZED

JN120844 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary entitled "The Erroneous Formula in Washington's Calculations," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: In accordance with the U.S. foreign military aid program formulated by President Reagan's administration, Israel will, as it has in the past, get the lion's share of this aid in addition to the already extraordinary aid it receives from the U.S. treasury and arsenals. This continuous stream of U.S. aid to the Zionist entity gives rise to several questions about the nature of U.S. understanding of the facts of the Middle East situation and about how the United States evaluates relations with the Arab countries.

At a time when the Arabs hope that the new U.S. administration will see things in a more realistic and moderate perspective, President Reagan states to a delegation of the Jewish communities in the United States that he is intent on preserving Israeli military supremacy in the region and asserts Washington's commitment to doing so. These regrettable statements are in complete contradiction to the concept of peace for which the new U.S. administration asserts its desire. These statements upset the balance between Washington's inclination to develop its relations with the political and strategic balance in the Middle East.

Israel came into being by means of U.S. weapons. By means of those weapons, Israel committed aggression, usurped the rights of the Palestinian people, and threatened and continues to threaten the security and stability of the whole region. This will continue as long as Israel is aware of its military supremacy and the vastness of its arsenals. Due to the imbalance of power which Washington intends to maintain in favor of Israel, Israel has been behind the failure of every effort to achieve a just settlement of the Palestinian cause and peace in the Middle East for more than 30 years.

If Washington desires peace and security in the Middle East, then injecting more arms and instruments of aggression into the Zionist entity will strengthen the intransigence and arrogance of that entity, its refusal to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people and its refusal to abandon the land it has been occupying by force since 1967.

If the United States desires to establish bridges of understanding and relations of mutual cooperation with the Arab peoples, it should realize that maintaining its erroneous policies against the interests of the Arabs will lead in the end to blowing up all bridges with the Arab nation and to destroying any relations and mutual benefit.

BRIEFS

CHILEAN COOPERATION ACCORD--An agreement between the Chilean and Jordanian Governments on strengthening economic, technical and cultural cooperation was signed here today at the National Planning Council. On the Jordanian side the agreement was signed by Dr Hanna 'Awdah, chairman of the National Planning Council; on the Chilean side by the Chilean ambassador in Amman. [Text] [Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Mar 81 JN]

SYRIAN-LEBANESE TALKS END; SARKIS RETURNS 11 MAR

Arrival Report

NC111525 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Excerpts] At 1600 today President Ilyas Sarkis and his delegation returned to Lebanon from Damascus. At the Lebanese side of the Lebanese-Syrian border, the republican guard band played the national anthem. President Sarkis then inspected a guard of honor. He was then welcomed by Acting Governor of Al-Biqa' Salim Jad'un and commander of the Zahalah gendarmerie Lt Col Rafiq Faghali.

President Sarkis and his delegation are expected to arrive at the Republican palace [in B'abda] at any minute now.

Sarkis Statement

NC111750 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] On arriving at B'abda palace, His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis made a statement to journalists in which he said: I would like first to thank his excellency brother President Hafiz al-Asad for the warm hospitality with which he surrounded us. He added: Our talks took place in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere. We discussed in length the fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries, the situation in Lebanon, and the situation in the area in general. Our points of views were identical on several matters. We emphasized the need to exert every possible effort to stabilize the security situation in Lebanon, as well as the need for the cooperation among all the parties concerned with the crisis in order to achieve this objective, which is the wish of all the Lebanese.

Joint Statement Broadcast

NC111648 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] At 1700 today President Ilyas Sarkis arrived at the Republican palace, accompanied by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and the members of the Lebanese delegation following an official visit to the Syrian capital. During the visit President Sarkis held three rounds of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad which dealt with relations between the two countries, the issue of south Lebanon, the Arab and international situation and what can be done to achieve a relaxation in the situation in Lebanon.

Following the third round of talks held between the two presidents today and in which Prime Ministers Shafiq al-Wazzan and 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam participated, the following joint statement was issued:

Deliberations took place on all affairs dealing with the crisis in the area and with Lebanon, as well as with the Lebanese-Syrian relations. There was an identity of views on the need to take some measures that will help achieve security relaxation on the Lebanese arena and on the need to accelerate detente and put it into practice in the light of the existing situation and on further cooperation toward this end.

There was also identity of views on the entry of the Lebanese army into south Lebanon.

Cabinet Meeting Scheduled

NC120918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] The ministers have been invited to attend an extraordinary session of the Cabinet at 1000 this coming Monday. The ministers will be briefed of the outcome of the Lebanese-Syrian talks that were held in Damascus. They will also discuss some urgent questions.

VOL Commentary

NC120838 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] The question being asked in political and leadership circles is whether the outcome of the Damascus summit between Presidents Sarkis and Al-Asad was of the same level of importance as that which was attached to the preparation and convocation of the summit. Nevertheless, so far it appears discussions at the summit did not go beyond the reopening of the Sodeco gate and Fu'ad Shihab bridge, which were closed before the summit owing to sniper fire by the Syrian-sponsored Palestine Liberation Army. Some security action is expected to be adopted within 2 weeks as an illustration of the actual interpretation of the security decisions and measures.

The Lebanese regime will resume the talks with Lebanese leaders within the framework of holding conciliation meetings in B'abda palace.

Since the conclusion of the summit well-informed sources have outlined the differing Lebanese and Syrian stands over the way to solve the crisis. While the Lebanese side is seeking to solve it by achieving security, the Syrian side is seeking to achieve security through accord.

OFFICIAL MEETS WITH UN SECURITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

NC111307 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Concerning Lebanon's complaint to the UN Security Council against Israel, Lebanon's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, Ghassan Tuwayni, is continuing his efforts to prepare a resolution that will condemn Israel and that will firmly put an end to its repeated attacks against Lebanon.

Tuwayni has contacted the GDR delegate, Ambassador Peter Lorin, who is currently chairman of the Security Council, and informed him that the Lebanese delegation is preparing a draft resolution on the recent Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon and that the Tunisian delegate, Ambassador Taieb Slim, will contact him when the draft resolution is ready.

Tuwayni has also held a long meeting with the Tunisian delegate, who represents the Arab group at the Security Council. During the meeting they prepared the main points of the draft resolution, taking into consideration any new developments that might arise at the Security Council. The Tunisian delegate, in turn has begun a series of contacts with the council's members to sound out their opinions on the draft resolution as well as on alternative resolutions.

Tuwayni has also called for a meeting of the Arab group, which is expected to meet today, and met with the deupty chief of the Soviet mission.

HIJACKERS THREATEN TO KILL AMERICAN PASSENGERS

JN121232 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1225 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA)--(Mujir Gholam), leader of the Pakistani airliner's hijackers and deputy commander of the Al-Zulfiqar organization, addressed a message at noon today to the Pakistani Government through the SANA correspondent. The message says that only hours are left for the deadline to expire and still the Pakistani Government has not answered the demands of the hijackers. In their message the hijackers threatened dire consequences if their demands are not met by 1800 today [1600 GMT] and said the Pakistani Government must bear the consequences.

The Al-Zulfiqar organization deputy commander asserted that when the deadline expires, the hijackers will begin to shoot the American nationals in the airliner. He described them as U.S. intelligence agents, asserting that their agentry is confirmed by information available to him. The leader of the hijackers threatened the Pakistani Government by saying: "Be ready to receive the bodies of these Americans." He asserted that President Ziaul Haq does not care about the release of the passengers and wants to destroy the plane. He also asserted that the hijackers insist on their demands for the release of the 55 political prisoners. If this is not done, they will be forced to carry out their threat after the ending of the fixed time, that is, 1800 today.

AL-ASAD ANSWERS QUESTIONS AFTER SARKIS' DEPARTURE

JN111828 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Official talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis resumed today at the presidential palace at 1030 today. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister and on the Lebanese side, by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

The meeting lasted until 1500 and was interrupted by a working luncheon. Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas Sarkis then left the presidential palace in an official motorcade for the shooting club where an official farewell was accorded to President Ilyas Sarkis. After President Sarkis and the delegation accompanying him left the shooting club, President Hafiz al-Asad answered questions from the press.

The first question was about the practical results which emerged from President Ilyas Sarkis' visit to Damascus. His excellency the president said: I believe that President Sarkis has given one of you a written paper containing the major topics that have been agreed upon. In general the talks were positive. We discussed matters in an atmosphere of genuine brotherhood. We have jointly exerted efforts to seek a useful solution to some of the problems that we are facing.

His excellency the president was asked if they had agreed on something concerning security. His excellency the president said: Yes, we came to an agreement. Part of what is contained in the paper deals with the sphere of security.

His excellency the president was then asked about southern Lebanon. The person who posed this question said: Southern Lebanon continues to be an independent front and the situation in it is tense. Has an agreement been reached concerning the translation of the slogan that southern Lebanon is a common Arab responsibility?

His excellency the president replied: One of the points that has been discussed concerns the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south. We in Syria support this issue. As for the issue of confrontation with Israel, we in Syria are the basic part of the confrontation, whether this confrontation is directly on the Syrian borders or on the Lebanese borders.

His excellency the president was asked if he believes that the results achieved by the summit meeting will fulfill the aspirations on which the Lebanese people have been pinning their hopes?

His excellency the president replied: As you very well know, the problem is not that simple. We searched for practical and feasible methods. We took into consideration, as well as we could, the fears of all the parties. Through this intricate situation, we tried to search for useful solutions. I cannot say that what we have achieved fulfills the hopes the people have been pinning on our meeting. However, I believe that we have taken one or two steps forward.

The following question dealt with what has been said about security measures which will give new powers to the Lebanese Army: Has anything been reached on this topic?

His excellency the president replied: We did not discuss a provision on the powers of the Lebanese Army because this pertains to the essence of Lebanese sovereignty. This is something which is directly related to the Lebanese state and we did not touch on such issues.

His excellency the president was asked: Have you discussed the issue of expanding the area in which the Lebanese Army will be deployed?

His excellency the president replied: I said a short while ago that we had discussed the question of the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon.

His excellency the president was asked about Syrian-Libyan unity and the stages that had been achieved toward this unity and the influence of this unity on the Lebanese and Arab situation.

His excellency the president replied: The members of the committee on Syrian-Libyan Unity are currently in Damascus and are continuing the talks we began in Tripoli. We are optimistic. You have heard the statements made by our brother Libyans and their determination to achieve unity. We have the same determination.

The next question was about As-Sadat's destruction of the balance of power in the Middle East by leaving the Arab confrontation arena. Does his excellency the president believe that the Soviet-Syrian treaty has restored the balance to this arena?

His excellency the president replied: It is an important action within the framework of establishing a strategic balance between us and Israel. The process of maintaining a balance may perhaps need some time. We, however, have begun to complete it in Syria, with the cooperation of our Arab brothers. Cooperation and a strengthening of relations with the Soviet Union will achieve this balance.

One of the journalists said: Some say that, with Reagan's accession to power, there will be a change in U.S. policy and others say that a possible change in Israeli policy will take place when the Labor Party assumes power in Israel. Do you expect anything positive should such a change occur?

His excellency the president said: It is of no use to predict in this sphere. What I can say is that we have not yet sensed any change in U.S. policy.

His excellency the president was then asked about the possibility of any future meetings of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation.

His excellency the president replied: As you very well know, we all had meetings some time ago which perhaps were of a bilateral nature. These meetings, however, were held within the framework of coordination between the parties of the Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation. We shall perhaps hold group meetings at the ministerial level or at the summit level later. Contacts between us, however, continue and have been intensive during that period.

His excellency the president was asked about a Lebanese accord, as the majority of the Lebanese people have called for a solution--if there is a security solution--that is based on the principles of Lebanese accord, and whether the issue had been discussed.

His excellency the president said: We discussed this matter in detail and it took up much of our discussions. An accord is the only possible basic road to peace. The people must agree and settle their problems.

His excellency was then asked: Have you reached an agreement on a formula to achieve an accord?

His excellency the president said: We have reached agreement on some matters. Each of us will carry out what is required of him, as I said at the beginning of our meeting. The matter does not depend on us alone. All must cooperate; the forces, parties and even journalists must cooperate because this is a big problem with whichwe must deal patiently, without despair; we have no other choice before us.

His excellency was asked about his evaluation of the efforts that are being exerted to establish the broad Lebanese nationalist front.

His excellency the president replied: We bless the efforts which are being exerted to establish this front because we believe that it will advance the process of peace in Lebanon. The more the Lebanese are united the more this serves the peace process.

UNITY COMMITTEE ENDS MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS

JN120644 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus--The Unity Committee of fraternal Syria and Libya ended its meetings at 2300 last night. During its three sessions the committee accomplished an important step in implementing its task by drawing up a project for the framework, institutions and tasks of the unitary state, taking into consideration the two revolutionary experiments in the two fraternal countries. The unity committee agreed to hold its next meeting in Tripoli.

The committee held a meeting last night which was attended on the Syrian side by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, Regional Command member and information minister; on the Libyan side by Lt Col Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the 1 September Revolution Command Council, and Engineer Jadallah 'Azzuz at-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee.

LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN112020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus--Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus at 1900 today on a visit to Syria. The Libyan guest was welcomed at the airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs and the members of the Libyan Relations Office in Damascus.

JORDANIAN BA'THISTS PRAISE AL-ASAD REMARKS

JN120710 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message of greetings from the Jordanian regional command of the Ba'th Party expressing the sentiments of the Arab masses in Jordan on President Hafiz al-Asad's historic speech on the 18th anniversary of the 8 March revolution in which he exposed with facts the Jordanian regime's defeatist and conspiratorial march, its treacherous role during the October liberation war and its implementation of the roles entrusted to it by the imperialist forces.

In its message the Jordanian Regional Command of the Ba'th Party asserted that through their experience of suffering at the hands of the agent regime in Jordan, the Arab masses in Jordan are aware of a large part of this regime's defeatist and conspiratorial march. It also asserted that President Hafiz al-Asad's speech exposed the remaining parts of this conspiratorial march, which constitutes the fig leaf behind which the agent regime has concealed its faults.

The message praised the president's emphasis on the national role of the Jordanian patriotic forces and his trust in these forces to the extent of referring to their arbitration in defining the nature of relations with the Jordanian regime and in their ultimate judgment of the monarchial regime. The message stressed that this emphasis inspired these forces with a revolutionary spirit and provided them with popular support, making it easy for them to convincingly address the Jordanian masses and their popular organizations and placing them before their pan-Arab responsibilities to perform their militant role as the sole legitimate representative of the Jordanian people.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES MORO FRONT OFFICIAL

JN111424 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA)--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here this morning Nur Misauri, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front's [MNLF] Central Committee. The meeting was attended by the front's representative in Damascus.

Discussion centered on the MNLF's struggle to determine its fate and liberate itself from foreign hegemony. The front's representatives also discussed the circumstances of the confrontation of the agent elements in the Philippines.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed to Mr Misauri the firm and principled stand adopted by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Syria in support of the MNLF in its legitimate struggle for the freedom and independence of the Moro people.

Misauri conveyed the regards of the Moro people to Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, party secretary general and president of the republic, on the occasion of the celebrations marking the 18th anniversary of the glorious March revolution, and their thanks for the support and backing of the party and Syria for the Moro people's just cause.

NEW TV STATION OPENED IN AS-SUWAYDA' 10 MAR

JN101849 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] On the occasion of the celebrations of the 8 March revolution anniversary, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad today inaugurated the television transmission station in As-Suwayda'. The ceremony was attended by government and party officials in As-Suwayda' Governorate, the assistant minister of information, the director general of Syrian television and radio and the director of radio.

On this occasion the information minister thanked the engineers, technicians and workers for the efforts they have exerted to complete this station, which will cover southern Syria, the Golan Heights, northern Jordan and Palestine.

ISRAEL TO SEEK $350 MILLION IN EXTRA U.S. AID

TA111134 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 81 p 2

[By U.S. correspondent Mordekhay Barqay]

[Excerpts] Israel will strive to receive additional concessions totaling $350 million in U.S. aid for 1982 unconnected to the U.S.-Saudi deal. It is assumed that the Reagan administration will not object to these concessions if they are approved by Congress. However, it will not initiate them.

Israel wants to increase the share of the grant in the military aid to $700 million, namely, half the total military aid as was the case in previous years when the total military aid amounted to $1 billion. In addition, Israel wants to secure easier terms for the loan included in the military aid, mainly concerning the rate of interest, to ease the burden of the national debt.

The DAVAR correspondent adds that although the reference is apparently to increasing aid, these concessions will require an additional allocation. Pro-Israeli elements expressed their belief that the administration would not object to including these additions in the budget if these were proposed by the Congress. However, the administration would not be willing to initiate such a move.

SHAMIR SPEAKS ON SINAI FORCE, SAUDI ARMS DEAL

TA111451 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] The multinational force to be stationed in Sinai will be composed of several thousand men, not of a few observers. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this today to the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. According to him, the U.S. administration has guaranteed to help export Israeli weapons with the aim of strengthening Israel's economy. However, the United States had made up its mind to supply parts for weapons to Saudi Arabia, while compensating Israel. According to him, Israel had been opposed to the deal with Saudi Arabia from the beginning and U.S. compensation was an initiative of President Reagan's

BURG SAYS TALKS MAY REQUIRE REASSESSMENT

TA111737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg said today that Israel may have to reconsider its attitude toward the autonomy talks and adopt a new stance if the talks suspensions by Washington and Cairo continue. Dr Burg said that these views must now be made known to both Washington and Cairo. Correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Dr Burg was speaking at the ceremony marking the creation of the Ma'ale Efrayim local council in the Jordan Rift valley.

[Begin recording] [Burg] In the light of the suspensions which we see in Cairo, and perhaps also in Washington, I want to say that we face a true test of peace. And if these suspensions in the holding of the autonomy talks are part of a political program with the aim of not holding these talks, this is a grave matter requiring study and perhaps a situation assessment from a national, political and international perspective.

[Ben-Melekh] Dr Burg, when do you think this stage will arrive?

[Burg] I think that now we must hear something one way or the other. It is inconceivable that the political negotiations should be dependent--first on elections in the United States and then on elections in Israel--while precious time passes. [end recording]

BEGIN SAYS TERRORISTS AIDED BY SOVIET UNION

TA112018 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin is now making a speech in Jerusalem to a meeting of Likud members in the Histadrut. The meeting is also being attended by Knesset Speaker Yitzhaq Berman and the eight Likud Cabinet ministers. The subject of the meeting is the status of the Histadrut. Here are some of the prime minister's remarks about the war against terrorists:

[Begin recording] [Begin] We must abandon the reaction philosophy because, if we act according to it and wait until the representatives of the murderers' organizations come and kill men, women and children in Israel--we know those murderers are sitting in their bases, being helped by the Soviet Union in everything, with weapons and instruction; they have a budget of $1 million a day with which they can purchase all the weapons of destruction, including those with which they used in an attempt to come to us from the air [applause]--then it will be as though we had sentenced an unknown number of our citizens, our women and children, to death. Therefore we are pursuing the murders in their bases and we are filling their hearts with horror and fear. [end recording]

DAYAN CONFERS WITH AS-SADAT; ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

TA111154 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Mar 81 pp 1, 15

[By Cairo correspondent 'Oded Granot]

[Text] Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat and former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan conferred yesterday for about 1 hour and discussed upcoming elections in Israel and the chances of a new list led by Dayan. However, they took pains not to disclose their intentions in the political sphere and regarding relations between the two countries.

The meeting took place yesterday at noon at the president's villa north of Cairo. The meeting was described as hearty and sincere. However, various sources here expressed the belief that the extreme restraint and cautiousness displayed by both parties were partially a consequence of the past publicity given to Dayan's disclosures about his meetings with Arab leaders.

As a result, the appearance of As-Sadat and Dayan before journalists at the end of their meeting was canceled at the last moment and without previous notice. The journalists who arrived from Cairo could thus pose no questions to the two men about the content of their meeting.

Another reason for keeping Egyptian, Israeli and foreign journalists away is related to the Egyptians' desire to settle the apparent contradiction between the Egyptian Government decision not to invite Israelis who are involved in the election campaign in Israel and the invitation extended to Dayan to visit Cairo.

The fact that Dayan came to Cairo--although he was invited to attend a symposium sponsored by the Egyptian magazine OCTOBER, he ultimately only conferred with President as-Sadat since the symposium did not take place--only increased speculation over the real purpose of the visit and whose interests it was meant to serve.

Confusion grew upon the publication of yesterday's editorial in AL-AHRAM in which it was hinted that Dayan had come to Cairo to promote his chances in the election campaign in Israel.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID HOLDS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT OF BENIN

LD111826 Algiers APS in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Algiers, 11 Mar (APS)--Political talks between Algeria and Benin resumed yesterday in Algiers with the Algerian side led by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN party and Benin Republic President Mathieu Kerekou.

Benin head of state is in Algeria since Monday on an official visit at the head of an important delegation including the foreign minister and the minister of information.

After these talks, President Kerekou went to El Alia cemetary where he laid a wreath on President Boumediene's tomb.

In the afternoon, President Methieu Kerekou and his delegation together with Mr Abdelaziz Khellef, minister of commerce, visited the tractor making plant of Constantine (east of Algeria) and the university. Benin head of state is expected to visit today Skikda.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH SEYCHELLES PARTY--Victoria, 11 Mar (APS)--A protocol agreement was signed yesterday in Victoria between FLN Party and Seychelles People's Progressive Party (SPPF). The agreement which was signed on the Algerian side by a visiting delegation defines the guidelines of relations between the two parties for 1981 and 1982. A joint communique was also signed and will be published simultaneously in Algiers and Victoria. During its stay in the island, the Algerian delegation had several rounds of talks with Seychelles officials and was audienced by President France Albert Rene. The delegation left Mahe yesterday. They were seen off at the airport by Mr Guy Sinon, SPPF secretary general. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1553 GMT 11 Mar 81 LD]

LIBYA

U.S. FLEET MANEUVERS SAID TO REFLECT 'ANXIETY'

LD111436 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Excerpt] In strategic places in the Mediterranean Sea and along areas facing the central part of Jamahiriyah, the U.S. 6th Fleet began naval and air maneuvers yesterday. This American move, if it indicates anything, is an indication that the achievements of the Arab people in the Jamahiriyah have began to cause real anxiety in American colonial quarters. This military move is resorted to from time to time to intimidate the peoples, threaten their freedom and achievements, prevent their growth and stifle their aspirations.

U.S. REPORTEDLY GIVES 'SPY AIRCRAFT' TO MOROCCO

LD111356 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources have mentioned that America has handed the Moroccan regime a spy aircraft to be used against the Polisario revolutionaries. This step comes within the framework of colonial alliance against the struggle of the people of the Sahara and to protect the Moroccan regime against the popular revolution.

AL-QADHDHAFI STRESSES OPPOSITION TO ALL TERRORISM

LD111634 Tripoli JANA English 1432 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Mar (JANA)--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatah Revolution, affirmed that the Red Brigades and Baader Meinhof are two similar terrorist organizations under different names.

In an interview on the Italian T.V., Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that the Basque organization calls for separating the region from Spain, a position which Libya does not support, but rather believes in the unity of the Spanish soil.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi added that the Basque issue is a Spanish internal affair and Libya does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. He stressed Libya's strong opposition to all forms of terrorism.

TURKISH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ENDS VISIT 11 MAR

LD111433 Tripoli JANA in English 0821 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Mar (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish deputy prime minister and the state minister of economic affairs and the delegation accompanying him, yesterday left Tripoli international airport after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The Turkish minister made a statement to JANA's correspondent praising the giant achievements made in the Jamahiriyah thanks to the Great Al-Fatah Revolution and he said that during his visit he held positive talks on bilateral relations and ways of developing them in various fields.

The secretary of the General People's Committee of Economy and Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish deputy prime minister and the state minister of economic affairs, yesterday signed the minutes for bilateral cooperation. These minutes include cooperation in the economic, industrial, agricultural, and commercial fields and the exchange of expertise.

AL-QADHDHAFI MEETS NICARAGUANS; DOCUMENTS SIGNED

LD112152 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] The brother leader has received the Nicaraguan minister of foreign affairs and the minister of the International Reconstruction Fund, who are currently visiting the Jamahiriyah.

The two ministers stressed the role of the Jamahiriyah in supporting the cause of freedom and in standing alongside the peoples struggling for freedom and deliverance from foreign domination. The two ministers expressed to the brother leader the appreciation of the people of Nicaragua for the stand of the Great 1 September Revolution in supporting their struggle for the sake of the triumph of their popular revolution, which overthrew the regime of the fascist clique who dominated and terrorized the people of Nicaragua. They affirmed that, since achieving freedom, their country now marches along the road of realizing the jamahiri system and that the Third World theory is now being carefully and profoundly taught in Nicaragua.

The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and the Nicaraguan foreign minister this evening signed the protocol of an agreement for cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Nicaragua. They also signed an agreement for setting up a joint company between the Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Nicaragua. They also signed an agreement for setting up a joint company between the Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua to operate in the agricultural field.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY

LD120016 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Feb 81

[Text] Maati Bouabid, prime minister and justice minister, has granted the Italian news agency an interview, in which he has spoken about current issues at the Maghreb and Islamic levels. The prime minister once again confirmed Morocco's attachment to its territorial unity.

He noted the aggravation of the contradiction between the raising of slogans and principles and the reality of the strategy of politics, pointing to the changes in the attitudes of the Nonaligned [Movement] and the European Parliament.

As regards the mediation and contacts carried in some reports, the prime minister pointed out that Morocco as a state and government could only negotiate with a state, that is, with Algeria. He also confirmed Morocco's readiness to contribute to any peace initiative on the condition that its territorial unity and its national sovereignty are respected. The prime minister also recalled that the population of the Saharan provinces had expressed their will in the elections for the legislator. The prime minister spoke about those detained in Tindouf and recalled that Morocco had always called for the counting of these people and the investigation of their identity.

He also spoke about the economic situation in Morocco and its relation to the effort exerted for the defense of the homeland and confirmed that the Moroccan dirham was stable and that the rate of inflation was much lower than in other countries sharing the same conditions.

As regards the unity of the Arab Maghreb and unity of Arab ranks, the prime minister pointed to the difference between unity and domination. He pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi sees in the unity for which he is calling nothing but an attempt to annex other countries, an example of which is the Libyan invasion of Chad.

MAURITANIAN'S REMARKS SAID TO RENOUNCE NEUTRALITY

LD111454 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 11 Mar (MAP)--The Algerian daily EL MOUDJAHID published an interview with Mauritanian Minister of Information Mr Ahmedou Ould Sidi. Moroccan authorized milieux here consider this interview as a total renunciation of Mauritanian's stand of neutrality.

Mr Ould Sidi who represented the Mauritanian Government at the masquerade organized in a territory under Algerian administration to mark the support of participants to the policy of aggression and hegemony aimed at amputating Morocco of a part of its territory and therefore destabilizing the north-west African region, dared to mention a puppet organization and quality it as "the unique and legitimate" representative of what he called "Sahrawi people", noticed the Moroccan milieux.

The Mauritanian minister who set up himself as judge respectful of principles forgot that by his firm position, he deviated from the principle of neutrality on the conflict opposing Morocco and Algeria. In fact, he only reflects the stand of Algeria which wants at any cost to speak of a "people" which exists only for the needs of the cause.

Such statements from Mauritanian or other officials, will increase the tension in the region as they reveal support to mercenaries which are manipulated by destibilizing forces whose practices already showed in other regions of the African Continent, outlined the same milieux.

LE MONDE VIEWS MOROCCAN SIDE OF SAHARA CONFLICT

Tour of Positions

LD111353 Paris LE MONDE in French 4 Mar 81 p 3

[Paul Balta dispatch: "With the Moroccan Forces on the 'Safety Belt' Against the Polisario"]

[Text] Zag--"This Monday, 2 March, on the eve of the festival of the throne and the day of the 25th anniversary of independence, the Royal Armed Forces [FAR] have won a major victory. At 1302 hours the defense line reached Smara." Gen Driss Dlimi made that statement to us after reading the message that an aide had just handed him.

We were in the officers mess in Zag--the last stage of a visit lasting several days in his company to El Aioun, Bu-Craa, Smara, Ras-el-Khanfra and Tan-Tan. The objective was to check progress on the "wall" intended to protect the "useful triangle" and to review 5 years of war.

The "wall," which was started last August, is formed by a bank of earth 2 to 3 meters high, protected by barbed wire and minefields. It has lookout posts and defense points at varying intervals, depending on the nature of the terrain. These circular or four-sided defense points comprise a number of casemates and sunken positions defended by artillery. Soldiers mount guard day and night. They survey the horizon with the naked eye but also have radar which detects the approach of men and vehicles. Not far from this network intervention equipment--armored vehicles, M-113 tanks for troop transport and artillery--is deployed ready to face a large-scale attack.

The Puma helicopter which took us from Tan-Tan overflew this precipitous region at low altitude--a region in which, one of the officers told us, "the enemy could hide a regiment." Zag, the only waterhole in the region and a crossroads leading to Tindouf, 100 km away, and to the cities of Mahbes, Jdiria, Farsia and Haouza in the Western Sahara, is situated in a basin and, according to the Polisario Front, should have been the Moroccans' Dien Bien Phu. Indeed, the Saharan fighters had succeeded in isolating it at the beginning of 1980 and had inflicted a heavy defeat on the FAR in the Quarkziz in March exactly 1 year ago.

It was from the second battle of Ouarkziz in April to May that General Dlimi began to rectify the situation and defined a new strategy. Rather than continuing to occupy all the centers of population in the Western Sahara, which were difficult to supply and hence to defend because they were subjected to constant harassment, he decided to pull his forces out of Dakhla and Guelta-Zemmour into the "useful triangle," protecting this triangle by what is referred to here as the "safety belt."

From a helicopter you can see this "wall" clearly following the Ouarkziz, passing within 40 km of the Algerian border, skirting Zag and its nearby defense lines and returning toward Ouarkziz. In all, the protected area is some 30,000 square km.

The mountains, whose passes have been sealed, constitute a natural defense, so the "wall" resumes at the altitude of Ras-el-Khanfra and Khreibichet. It is here that the fiercest clashes have taken place in recent months, The Polisario Front doing all it could to halt the construction of an obstacle which is highly likely to hinder it. Some 300 km has so far been constructed, under the protection of the Zellaka Mobile Brigade. The construction work is, in principle, intended to be continued toward Bu-Craa and then to go up toward El Aioun. Subsequently, another "wall" should go from the Bu-Craa phosphate complex to Cape Coujdour.

"This defense line," General Dlimi explained to us, "has several purposes. It is intended primarily to give the population a feeling of security to enable them to work in peace as in the rest of Morocco. It is also aimed at cutting the Polisario Front fighters off from the population so that they are no longer at home there. In a third stage we will carrying out mopping up and pursuit operations from the 'wall' in order to push the Polisario units back to the Algerian bases as much as possible."

In this connection General Dlimi denied that the Polisario had begun to dismantle its bases to transfer them to Mauritania. "At the very most," he said, "a few families may have returned to Nouakchott or Zouerate. But according to my information the front is still in the Tindouf region."

While waiting for the construction of the "wall" to be completed, El Aioun's and Bu-Craa's defenses have been considerably strengthened and moved forward. "We have taken account of the range of our adversaries' new weapons, notably the 122's or 'Stalin organs' which have a 22 km range," the general told us, showing us one of those missiles which exploded in the middle of a defense point.

The fact that El Aioun's most forward defense line is now some 40 km from the center of the city, near Bnechra Fort. [as published] It was attacked from 0900 to 1230 on 25 February, apparently without much success. In any case three charred vehicles could be seen near the defense lines. Around another 40 vehicles, out of 150 to 200, were apparently hit by the air force.

Less Intensive Attacks

The commanders of the various sectors observe that the rate of the Polisario Front's attacks has dropped in the past 6 weeks and that the attacks are less intensive than the past. They admit that the preparations for the fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the SDAR might have played a part in this slowdown, but they are nonetheless wondering whether their adversary is not going through a difficult time. The Moroccan soldiers, whose disarray emerged from documents which fell into Polisario hands 1 year ago, now have good morale and seem confident. Nonetheless, the Polisario's harassment, even on a reduced scale, is forcing the Moroccan Army to remain constantly vigilant.

There is deadlock at political level. Three secret meetings took place in January, October and November 1980 in Geneva, between President Chadli Bendjedid's minister adviser Taleb Ibrahimi and King Hassan II's adviser Redha Ghedira, but they led nowhere. Meanwhile the Moroccan authorities are occupying the territory and establishing an increasing number of "faits accomplis." For instance, when the new El Aioun governor was installed on 27 February Interior Minister Driss Basri announced that 70 billion centimes have been invested in that city over the past 5 years.

Many projects have been drawn up and the city looks like a building site. Some 2,000 dwellings have been completed and others are under construction. In the center there is a fine series of buildings comprising a mosque--the biggest to have been constructed since the Mohamed V Mausoleum was built in Rabat--a cultural center and a crafts center. A big hotel is nearing completion while work has just started on a port. Considerable efforts are also being made in the education sphere--the number of children in school has increased from 900 to 7,800--and in the health sphere. Outgoing Governor Soliman Haddad, who showed us the city, pointed to one of the districts where Saharan nomads live. "If you come back in 1 year," he said, "these shanty towns will have vanished and in 5 years' time you will not recognize this city."

Hassan: Dispute 'Closed'

LD111427 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Saharan Conflict a 'Closed' Affair?"]

[Text] Should Hassan II's assertion that the Western Sahara conflict is a "closed" affair be taken literally? The Moroccan king, who proclaimed in the speech he delivered on 3 March that the "recovery of our Sahara" has been completed, probably has valid reasons for showing such confidence.

Since last May the Moroccan forces have succeeded in extending their control to almost all the 'useful' former Spanish Sahara--"useful" owing to its resources and its population--some 30,000 square km--thanks to a kind of Maginot Line or "wall" being constructed around the Smara-Bu-Craa-El Aioun triangle. Despite its surprise attacks, which have, moreover, been less frequent for some time, the Polisario is marking time from the military viewpoint.

Hassan II has considerable diplomatic and political help, dispelling any anxiety about the future. He enjoys unshakable support from Moroccan political circles, including the opposition, sympathy or material aid from various conservative Arab countries and supplies of military equipment from France and the United States.

Nonetheless, the Polisairo Front has enough advantages to considerably reduce the credibility of the Moroccan king's remarks. Some 45 states, including 26 in Africa, have officially recognized the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR]. Mauritania, formerly a Rabat government ally, seems likely to serve as an operations base for the Polisario guerrillas, as the Moroccan press has just stressed. The SDAR's international prestige is such that a few weeks ago the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling on the Moroccan state both to withdraw its troops from the Sahara and to open negotiations with the Polisario, with a view to organizing a referendum on self-determination for the Saharans.

Hence there is something unreal about Hassan proposing--but does he really believe what he says?--to end the conflict by a meeting with President Chadli Benjedid. Algeria is, of course, adopting an attitude of appeasement and hopes to promote a Maghreb grouping. Although it has always stated that it did not regard itself as involved in the conflict it agreed to open "exploratory talks" with Morocco, which, according to our correspondent in Algiers, took place in Geneva last year. Taleb Ibrahimi, minister advising the Algerian president, has had three meetings with Mr Guedira, one of Hassan II's closest advisers, but in vain, since the latter firmly rejected any contact with the Polisario.

President Bendjedid clearly cannot violate principles which have been declared many times and pledges solumnly made. He is even less able to agree to take the hand held out by Hassan II, since the latter at the same time defined the object of these negotiations: Recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the whole Western Sahara.

It must be noted, therefore, that the conflict is no more "closed" now than in 1976 when Hassan II, on the strength of military and political advantages, had simiarly proclaimed that the affair was "settled." The Polisario does not regard itself as defeated--far from it. Aside from the logistical facilities with which Algeria is providing them, the guerrillas receive irregular supplies of arms and military equipment from various countries, especially Libya. There is very good reason to think that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, strengthened by his successes in Chad, will not abandon such a valuable card in his hand. All the indications are, therefore, that the Saharan war is likely to drag on.

DJIBOUTI

VISITING SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS

LD111854 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The visiting Somali foreign minister, Abdurahman Jama Barre, who is leading a 15-member delegation, is continuing his talks with ministers and other officials of the Republic of Djibouti.

Mr Abdurahman Jama Barre and his delegation were today given a state luncheon by Minister of Interior Idriss Farah Abaneh. The Somali foreign minister and his delegation this morning held talks with the minister of commerce, transport and tourism. The Somali foreign minister and his delegation arrived in Djibouti on Monday for a 3-day official visit and are due to leave for home tomorrow.

While in Djibouti the Somali delegation was received by President of the Republic of Djibouti Hassan Gouled Aptidon. The Somali delegation yesterday held lengthy talks with Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou and Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah, on strengthening bilateral relations between Somalia and the Republic of Djibouti. Other fields of cooperation such as commerce, transportation, communications and tourism were also discussed.

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU HOSTS DINNER FOR SIERRA LEONEAN PRESIDENT

LD112118 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, gave a state dinner tonight in honor of the president of Sierra Leone, his excellency President Siaka Stevens. Present at the state dinner, held at the national palace, were Comrade Fiseha Desta, deputy secretary general of the PMAC, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the COPWE Executive Committee; PMAC Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee members; his excellency President Stevens' entourage; socialist Ethiopia's Cabinet ministers; high-ranking government officials; COPWE Central Committee members; members of the diplomatic corps; and representatives of international organizations.

SOMALIA

WSLF LEADER APPEALS FOR AID FOR SOMALI REFUGEES

LD102112 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 10 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Challe Mohamed Diriye Ardi, secretary general of the Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF], has appealed to the countries of the world and international relief organizations to extend assistance to western Somali refugees encamped in Somali and the Republic of Djibouti and currently facing a serious food and water shortage.

At a press conference this afternoon, the secretary general pointed out that the refugee problem is a direct result of the killings and oppression by the Abyssinian colonialists who have lately intensified their massacre of women and children and destruction of property. These people have been forced to flee this catastrophe into the Somali Democratic Republic. Challe Mohamed Diriye added that the WSLF would relentlessly continue its struggle until it achieves its goal of bringing freedom to the people of western Somalia--this freedom that will form the basis of a lasting peace in the region. The secretary general said that the Abyssinians were suffering numerous losses both in men and material in clashes with the front's forces.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MDI LEADER CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH TROOPS

AB111728 Paris AFP in French 1450 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 11 Mar (AFP)--Five days before the presidential elections in the CAR, the secretary general of the Democratic and Independence Movement (MDI), Mr Francois Gueret, on Wednesday called for the revision of the cooperation agreement signed in 1960 between the CAR and France and the withdrawal of French troops from the country.

Mr Gueret, former minister of justice in Mr David Dacko's government until March 1980, created the MDI in January of this year.

In a statement to AFP, Mr Gueret, who is not a presidential candidate, stressed the irritation of the Central African people over the deployment of foreign troops on the land and in the air as well as their increasing concern over the bombers which fly at low altitudes over the city of Bangui.

While acknowledging that the future withdrawal of the troops is the affair of the Central African Government, the secretary general of the MDI nevertheless expressed the hope that the Central African authorities would present a report on the training of the Central African Army by the foreign military aides.

Mr Gueret pointed out that according to certain sources the Central African Army does not receive appropriate training, thus making it possible for the foreign army to remain forever in the CAR whereas, he adds, its main duty is to train the CAR Army to enable it to fulfill its rightful role: defending the national territory.

The role of the military technical aides is to help us in this task and to withdraw from our territory afterwards, Mr Gueret said.

The leader of the MDI stressed that the withdrawal of the French Army should not signify its replacement by another foreign army whether African or non-African. He also condemned all kinds of imperialism and imperialist lackeys.

In addition, on behalf of his party, Mr Gueret called for a revision of the cooperation agreement signed in 1960 with France. In his opinion, the reciprocal advantages must be readjusted in order that the CAR might benefit from them for its economic and social development. In this regard, he stressed that his movement cannot accept the sale of the CAR's riches and the looting of its subsoil. He thinks that economic cooperation should enable the country to exploit its potential for the well-being of Central Africans.

ZAIRE

RESUMPTION OF RAIL TRAFFIC WITH ANGOLA REPORTED

AB101255 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] Rail traffic between Zaire and Angola has now resumed. The proof is that 11 rail cars containing Zairian ore, including manganese, which has been stranded at (Sodro) and whose tonnage has not been disclosed, have now resumed their journey toward Benguela in Angola and will be discharged at the port of Lobito within the framework of the resumption of rail traffic.

This was disclosed by Mr (Rose Barrin), the representative of the Zairian National Railroad Company in Kolwezi, who said that the frequency of traffic on this route will depend on Angola.

NIGERIA

KENYAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

AB111739 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Text] President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya arrived in Lagos this afternoon to start a 4-day official visit to the country. He was received at the airport by President Shehu Shagari, the vice president, Dr Alex Ekweme, and other distinguished government functionaries. He also received a 21-gun salute as well as traditional drumming and dancing. He also inspected the guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the army. While in the country, President Arap Moi will hold bilateral talks with President Shehu Shagari and lay a wreath at the Tafawa Balewa Square cemetery. He will also pay a day's visit to the Rivers State.

Shagari, Moi Remarks

AB120854 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has called for greater political and economic cooperation between Nigeria and Kenya. This, he said, should be in the form of joint ventures in the fields of telecommunications, shipping and air services.

He made the call in Lagos yesterday while welcoming his Kenyan counterpart, President Daniel Arap Moi, to Nigeria. He further stated that agriculture was another vital area where the two countries could work together profitably.

The Kenyan leader arrived in Lagos yesterday to begin a 4-day state visit to Nigeria. President Moi said in his speech that one of the primary concerns of his country was the consolidation of the political and economic independence of the African states. He stressed that this could not be achieved unless there was peace and stability in the continent. The Kenyan leader observed that his country shared identical views with Nigeria on most international issues, pointing out that African leaders should cooperate in matters that will improve the living standard of their people.

LAGOS VIEWS 'ANTI-NIGERIAN CAMPAIGN' IN GHANA

AB111045 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] For some time now there have been reports of anti-Nigerian campaign in Ghana. The campaign is said to have been spearheaded by some Ghanaians who had to return home from Nigeria because of their failure to possess valid entry documents as required by the ECOWAS treaty. These people, with the support of that country's [words indistinct] and mass media, have been feeding the public with fabricated stories. This is with a view to creating the wrong impression that Nigerians are hostile to their Ghanaian brothers and sisters.

Only recently, a newspaper report said that Nigerians in Ghana are now living in fear as a result of false rumors being spread by these Ghanaians. It was alleged that two Nigerians have been killed as a result of the rumormongering. Although the Ministry of External Affairs has described the alleged killings as baseless, the report of ill feeling against Nigerians in Ghana was not disputed. And this is a situation which must be checked in the interest of peaceful coexistence and for the sake of African unity.

When it was discovered that over 10,000 Ghanaians living in Lagos alone entered the country illegally, the Ghana high commissioner in Nigeria stepped into the matter. He issued a directive which required Ghanaians who had no resident or work permits to return home in compliance with the ECOWAS protocols on the movement of citizens of the community in the subregion. There was no time at which the Nigerian Government issued any directives to expel from this country any group of ECOWAS citizens. The Ghana high commissioner was, therefore, for all intents and purposes, acting in good faith to save both countries from avoidable embarrassment. Even before the directive, those of them who left Ghana because of that country's economic problems later realized that things were not as rosy in Nigeria as they had probably anticipated; hence they returned home out of their own volution.

As fellow members of ECOWAS, OAU and the Commonwealth, Nigeria and Ghana have many things in common; and this explains why the people of both countries have learned to live together as brothers and sisters. In fact, the governments of the two countries have been enjoying the cordial relationship which existed between them for many years. It is interesting to remember that Ghana's present head of state, Dr Limann, has paid two visits to this country since he assumed office. In a communique issued after one of the visits, the two countries, among other things, agreed to accelerate the pace of economic cooperation between them. They expressed the need for exploring ways and means for promoting industrial cooperation to avoid unecessary duplication of efforts. Also because of this friendly relation between the two countries, the Ghanaian leader invited his Nigerian counterpart to visit his country. This was accepted. It is, however, difficult to imagine how these commendable objectives could materialize without an atmosphere of peace and harmony among the people of the two countries.

Needless to say that the media organizations in both countries have an important role to play in this direction. They should learn how to concentrate more on the publication of facts rather than distorted and prefabricated stories. Emphasis should therefore be placed on the promotion of better understanding among the peoples of the two nations.

NEWSPAPER DISTURBED BY FRENCH BASES NEAR CHAD

AB121130 Lagos International Service in English 1030 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NIGERIAN STANDARD is disturbed by reports that France is setting up military bases in some of her former colonies bordering Chad. The paper sees this development as an attempt by France to sustain her colonial adventures in these countries. It admonishes the role played by France in Chad and calls on her to relinquish any vested interest in the country. The STANDARD further calls on the OAU to take appropriate measures against member countries which act as proteges to France.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT CLOSE OF ASSEMBLY SESSION

LD111626 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The second ordinary session of the supreme organ of state power ended at 0400 this morning under the chairmanship of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the party, of the republic and of the People's Assembly.

[Begin recording] [Dos Santos] Dear comrades and deputies: With the question of the law on amnesty and pardons submitted to the permanent commission for approval, and with the amendments to the various resolutions, we have ended discussion of all remaining points in the working organ of the second session of the People's Assembly.

The assembly registered with satisfaction the active and creative participation of the deputies during the debates, which constituted real proof of its political maturity and of its high degree of patriotic conscience. We have fearlessly noted, with understanding, all the problems which the masses are facing. We have also noted that the comrade deputies have shown their concern and put forth suggestions which will certainly contribute to the finding of solutions. This will allow us to overcome progressively difficult situations in our economic and social spheres. The meetings of this second session demonstrated the practical exercise of people's democracy. For the first time in the history of our people, the workers representatives--representatives of all the people from Cabinda to Cunene--have come together to analyze and decide on fundamental questions of the nation's life.

We should remember that during the colonial era, half a dozen colonial representatives of capitalism (?who pretend to represent the legitimate rights of the Angolan people) used to meet to discuss and decide on questions of the economic, political and social development of Angola. They defended the interests of the exploiter and therefore the problems were (?resolved) with the goal of guaranteeing the comfort, well-being and the investments of the colonials, while Angolans lived in humility and backwardness.

The achievement of our national independence through victory in the heroic struggle waged by the MPLA gave us the possibility to organize new bases. To start with, we have the fundamental interests of the workers, farmers and patriotic masses, (?who were also actively engaged in our revolution), at heart. Now, therefore, the comrade deputies, the workers and farmers, have the opportunity to express themselves freely on all questions which preoccupy our workers. This is a right which we have won for ourselves through the revolutionary struggle waged by the MPLA, now the MPLA-Labor Party.

Thanks to the maturity, teachings and the last guidelines left us by our beloved comrade president, Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, we can, through this, the greatest organ of people's power, approve laws dealing with the national plan and the general state budget, fundamental decrees which will guide the activity of each worker, each production unit, each ministry or state secretariat, in the struggle to increase the production of material wealth and for the provision of better services for our people.

However, merely approving these fundamental decrees is not enough. It is necessary to make them known to all the working masses so that they may conscientiously fight for the achievement of [word indistinct] and of established targets. The priority task of party members will be to carry out the work of explaining and clarifying the national plan and the necessity for its application, which is important politically and economically, as laid down by the first party congress.

There is no doubt that the success of the plan involves the regular exercise of control by everyone, by each enterprise and branch of activity, and the application of the principles contained in law 17/77 and the guidelines of the first extraordinary party congress on the improvement of the standard of living of workers, which should be given attention by leaders and responsible officials at all levels. I am convinced that in this year of discipline and control, firmer measures will be adopted to combat liberalism, nepotism, corruption and [word indistinct].

Meanwhile, important steps have been taken to improve the organization of commerce in the cities as well in the rural areas. Noting the anxiety of comrade deputies, who referred to the inefficiency of the supply co-operatives in places of work, and the necessity to improve medical assistance to and protection of the workers, I clearly feel hopeful that the recommendations made by this supreme assembly will be fulfilled by the competent executive organs, taking into account the guidelines of the first extraordinary party congress.

The guidelines drawn up by the party's first extraordinary congress are aimed at (?benefitting) those who really work, that is, those who produce goods and services (?for) society.

We have also observed the worries of some comrade deputies about the unemployed who today flood our cities, devoting themselves to loafing, blackmarketeering and speculation. This is an evil which is today dogging our society and which must be fought with the participation of every one of us. We have already observed a major commitment on the part of workers in denouncing these elements who are parasites and dishonest. Similar initiatives as those which took place in Malanje should be encouraged in all the provinces, particularly in Luanda, where the situation is taking on serious proportions.

It is evident, comrades, that we cannot exhaust the discussion of problems facing the working people. We are still short of some organs to ensure greater participation by the popular masses in the drawing up of our guidelines and in the effective exercise of the control of governmental activity. We still need to organize the work of the provincial peoples assembly and the respective executive organs.

There is also a need for us to continue implanting people's power organs right down to the grassroot structures so that the working masses may participate in the management of the economic and social life of our country as well as in the control of governmental activity from village level through commune up to national level. This will enable us to more vigorously and effectively fight liberalism, bureaucratism, nepotism and other injustices which can still be seen in some sectors of national life.

When we have completed this task we can say that we have implanted the people's power and I am sure that the people's power commission constituted by this assembly will successfully carry out this important task.

This form of state organization defined by our party and which ensures the participation of the working masses in management and state control, under the leadership of the proletariat, does not please our enemies from without and within. Hence, we are fought through various means. We are fought either through armed counterrevolution supported by racist South Africa and imperialism or through reactionary sectors of the petty bourgeoisie which use intrigue and rumor-mongering and which promote corruption and ideological confusion in a vain attempt to confuse the popular masses. But the popular masses are with the revolution. We should not be apprehensive about the present difficulties which can and must be overcome by improving the state and administrative organization and reinvigorating performance of the vital sectors of the national economy.

One comrade deputy said during the proceedings that our projects are seldom carried to conclusion. This was a situation which really took place. Now things should change in positive way. Since 1980 the government has been redoubling its efforts to complete all initiated projects.

It is in this context that in 1980 we are able to see the inauguration of the Cabinda and (Mocamedes) turbine power stations, [words indistinct] assembly plants; the completion of housing projects [words indistinct]; the repair of roads in Luanda [words indistinct]; intense activity for the reorganization of Luanda harbor; the [words indistinct] of Diamang [Angolan diamond company]; and many other important undertakings. This is the course that we should follow at all levels, particularly now that we have a People's Assembly and provincial people's assemblies. [Words indistinct] we have the national plan and task programs for the proletariat for each province.

I should like to conclude with the hope that we may successfully implement the aims laid down in the national plan and approach 100 percent implementation of the aims set in all sectors of the national life.

On behalf of the board of assembly I thank all comrades (?with an appeal) to prepare material and technical conditions so that we may carry our undertakings to their conclusion.

To the comrade deputies from the provinces I wish a safe return and success in their undertakings. With these words I declare the second session of the People's Assembly formally closed.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY APPROVES AMNESTY RESOLUTION

LD112116 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 11 Mar 81 EA

[Resolution read by Bernardo de Sousa, first secretary of the Angolan People's Assembly, at the end of the second ordinary session of the People's Assembly in Luanda--live]

[Text] Resolution: Taking into account that an amnesty is a measure of the maturity of the revolution, a proof of humanism and trust and reflects the desire to immediately reintegrate into the process of national reconstruction those citizens who had carried out [word indistinct] and antisocial acts:

Taking into account that last year, with the setting up of the People's Assembly and the holding of the party's first extraordinary congress, the Angolan people from Cabinda to Cunene realized an important undertaking left for them by the late Comrade President Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, the immortal guide of the Angolan revolution:

And taking into account that in his New Year message to the nation, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos announced the establishment and approval of an amnesty law, the People's Assembly which met in its second ordinary session from 6 to 11 March, 1981, under the chairmanship of Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, having discussed in depth the draft law on an amnesty and pardon, decided to approve the following resolution:

1. To charge the People's Assembly Permanent Commission with the task of reformulating and approving, within a maximum period of 30 days, a law proclaiming an amnesty and pardon covering crimes committed by the military and civilians.

2. The People's Assembly Permanent Commission should determine the categories of crimes to be covered by the measure of clemency based on the documents already presented to the People's Assembly and the suggestions of the deputies.